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THE
THEORY AND PRACTICE
OF
CRICKET.

THE
THEORY AND PRACTICE
OF
CRICKET,

FROM ITS ORIGIN TO THE PRESENT TIME :

WITH

CRITICAL & EXPLANATORY NOTES UPON THE LAWS OF THE GAME.

By CHARLES BOX,

AUTHOR OF

"THE CRICKETER'S MANUAL," "REMINISCENCES OF CELEBRATED PLAYERS,"

"ESSAYS ON THE GAME," "CRICKET SONGS AND POEMS," ETC.



LONDON :

FREDERICK WARNE AND CO.

BEDFORD STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1868.

GV 9.9
B72

LONDON :
SAVILL, EDWARDS AND CO., PRINTERS, CHANDOS STREET,
COVENT GARDEN.



1861, 1862, 1863
Dedicated

TO

THE PATRONS, LOVERS, AND PLAYERS OF CRICKET

THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD.

P R E F A C E.

“FROM chaos down to Cæsar’s time” is a long, dull, and dusty road, no matter what may be the pursuit of the traveller; but in the search of materials for constructing a readable book on cricket, few will deny that the man must possess extraordinary courage who buoys himself up with anything like hope or expectancy. Now, as a big book is admitted to be a big bore, the object aimed at in these pages is to avoid the obloquy of boredom, and to keep as far as possible from tortuous and beaten tracks, so that a few hitherto unmentioned facts concerning the manly and noble game which now is gaining universal sway, may be deemed worthy of perusal. In these days there is no lack of delvers who are perpetually unearthing some ancient stone, or antique relic, serving to bolster up

some fanciful theory or preposterous idea. Two propositions are herein submitted, viz., that Cricket is neither of remote origin nor foreign growth. If these be satisfactorily established, the sources for future cavil may be dried up, and henceforward a more open space left for profitable disputation.

In the varied statements respecting the progress of the game during its boyhood stages, the reader may at times be puzzled with the seeming anachronisms which start up with perplexing frequency. There can, however, be but one truth concerning one and the same thing. Wherever an aspect of confusion prevails, it must be referred to the carelessness of historians, who, having no interest in cricket, were not very particular at times with respect to names and dates ; and to attempt to correct them would probably tend to make confusion worse confounded.

A large proportion of this book is devoted to the examination of the Laws of Cricket, as every year fresh troops of players enter the contenders' list, many of whom are but ill-informed with re-

spect to the regulations under which their warfare ought fairly to be carried on.

As Cricket is now regarded in the light of a British institution, no apology is deemed necessary for the publication of this tribute to its literature.

CAMBERWELL, *May* 1st, 1868.

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THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF CRICKET.

FIRST PERIOD.

And oft, conducted by historic truth,
We tread the long extent of backward time.

THOMSON.

Antiquity of the ball—Use of it among the Chinese, Greeks, Romans, &c.—Ball play among the Italians—Hand-ball in the 13th century—Bowling; its long existence—Bat; its early character pointed out—Cricket first mentioned in the records of the town of Guildford—Cricket-ball, first mention of—Cricket-bat, early mention of—The “Book of Sports”—First poem on cricket written and published at Eton—Pall-mall and its relation to cricket—Golf-playing in Scotland—French notion of cricket—Facetious definition of the game, and the only people, physically considered, who are able to play it.

ALTHOUGH abundant proofs are obtainable respecting the birth-place of cricket, many have been the

attempts to show that under other appellations it existed ages ago, in far-off places. But the spirit of inquiry which characterizes the daylight of the nineteenth century has traced these fanciful theories up to their right source, and has found them little else than a net of inaccurate data or a maze of wild conjecture.

True, the prototypes of cricket are abundant enough to furnish any vivid imagination with materials on which to rhapsodize, but in endeavouring to maintain a proposition, or to work out a problem, something more than mere fancy is needed. That some of the machinery employed in the present day for the development of cricket, was in a ruder form used by the ancients, there is no denying. It may, however, be worthwhile to examine them closely, in order to ascertain what relation cricket bears to any of them, and whether, as some aver, it really owes its paternity thereto. Now the ball and the bat are the primary instruments used in the game; in truth, the indispensable. Doubtless these instruments, varying in kind and degree, date back to a very remote period. The ball, in fact, is coeval with

creation ; and the Chinese, who claim antiquity for themselves alone, made and still make the ball in a variety of ways serviceable for harmless pastime. So also the Japanese and other eastern nations.

Strabo says that Antigonus, 300 years previous to the Christian era, spied upon a time certain common soldiers playing at the ball and bowling, having their corslets on their backs and their morions upon their heads, and he took great pleasure therein.

Ball play is a very ancient Italian game, and is at the present time extensively practised. The ball used is between five and six inches in diameter, made of strongly-sewn cowhide. It is partially filled with water, which is pumped in through a small orifice. The game consists in striking the ball backward and forward over a cord, about twenty feet from the ground. The players have their right arms encased in a wooden cylinder thickly covered with spikes of the same material ; the left hand is left to grasp a handle at the lower end, in order to strike the ball therewith as straight as possible. Straightness, in fact, is its cardinal requisite. Almost every town promotes the cul-

ture of this game, and is provided with its “Gioco de Pallone,” or town ball-court.

In colder climes the ball has been equally the “toy to sport with,” although by a very different mode of procedure. Both foot and hand-ball continue to be the stock accompaniments of keen weather, as equally adapted for the locked-up stream or the frost-bound shore. That in the mediæval ages the Scotch exercised themselves with a ball and bat, is evident from a writer of Scottish history, who remarks : “One of the peculiar diversions still practised by the gentlemen is the goff, which requires an equal degree of art and strength. It is played by a bat and a ball ; the latter is of a taper construction till it terminates in the part that strikes the ball, which is loaded with lead and faced with iron.”

In the 13th century the practice of hand-ball among the English is frequently brought into notice, chiefly in consequence of its being played in churches during the Easter festival. Soon as the ceremony began, the dean, or his representative, chanted an antiphone suited to the occasion ; then, taking the ball in his left hand, he danced to the tune, and

others of the clergy danced round hand in hand. Hence its name. The organist selected such music as in his judgment would prove most in unison with the sport. The ball was made of leather, filled with air by means of a ventil. Here it will be at once seen that a very close resemblance exists between the ball play of the Italians and that of the third Edward's subjects; and the only reason hitherto assigned is the probability of its being brought to England between the 11th and 12th centuries, when the crusading spirit drew such a mingled army of soldiers and fanatics to and from the Holy Land.

Fitzstephen, a writer of the 13th century, says, in his time the youth of the city (London) were accustomed to go out into the fields with their teachers to play at ball, the scholars of every school having their particular ball, while the ancient and wealthy citizens came on horseback to see these youngsters contending at their sport.

“In 1365 Edward commanded the Sheriff of London to make proclamation that every one of the city, strong in body, should use in their recreations bows and arrows, pellets or bolts, and learn

and exercise the art of shooting, forbidding all and singular in our behalf that they do not after any manner apply themselves to the throwing of stones, hand-ball, foot-ball, bandy-ball, lambuck, or cock fighting, nor such like plays which have no profit in them." No mention of cricket.

A game existed, known by the name of creag, which bore a strong likeness to club-ball, but its origin is based in too much obscurity to determine with correctness its native home and true paternity.

Frequent reference has been made to a MS. in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, respecting which a wit remarks, "A woman is represented giving a ball to a man; while in the background are several tall and little women trying, as so many long stops and short stops, to catch the ball. But they are all ugly, and there does not seem to be any great catch among them!"

The Douce MSS., deposited in the same grand and venerable institution, abound with rude sketches of the sports in use among the rustic population of England during the mediæval ages, but they merely reflect or rather confirm the

statements of historians from which extracts are here given.

In the days of Sydney, the ball was described as “a round thing to play with, either with the hand, foot, or racket.” The accomplished author of “Arcadia” remarks: “Those I have seen meet and play at ball, grow extremely earnest who should have the ball.”

“The Dauphin of France, thinking Henry the Fifth to be given to such plays and light follies as he exercised and used before he was called to the crown of England, sent to him a ton of tennis balls to play with, as who, he said, had better skill of tennis than of war, and was more expert in light games than martial policy.”

The world's a tennis-court, the rackets fates,
Great kings are balls, when God will toss their states.

Thus far it will be seen that balls of various kinds and for various sporting purposes were in great use up to the close of the 16th century. Much more mystery hovers about the bat. No mental effort is needed for the proper conception of a ball as respects its figure, differ as it may in

size and adaptation to circumstance. The bat has now to be shaped :

——— a handsome bat he held,
On which he leaned as one of eld.

SPENSER.

This quotation harmonizes with the usage of the word in some rural districts of Sussex, and others in the home counties, where a strong thick walking-stick is called a bat. In Spenser's time it probably signified a weapon that did execution by its weight. Nor is it unlikely that clubbed sticks were originally designated bats, in part proof whereof the term is of Saxon descent. There is no continental language or dialect in which the word is to be found indicative of an exercise or pastime. *Sambuca*, *baculus incurvatus* is often spoken of to signify a crooked club or staff; and in a dictionary of obsolete provincial English, bat is the synonym for a stave, a club, a cudgel: thus,

He nemeth his bat, and forth a goth
Swithe sore and well wroth.

BEVES OF HAMPTON, p. 17.

Again: "But what needes many words?—and whilst I am faithful to them, I have lost the use of my

arms with bats.”—(Wright’s “Provençe Dictionary.” 1641.)

And such of you, a good bat on his neck,
Able to lay a good man on the ground.

GEORGE A-GREENE.

In Thompson’s “Etymons of English Words” bat is called a mallet, a club, a stick.

Other writers and poets are to be found who content themselves with a similar definition. As far as the bat and ball are considered in their individual capacity, the above examples may at present suffice.

Notwithstanding the persistence of some theorists respecting the development of cricket in the time of Shakspeare, no one has yet been able to produce any evidence of his knowledge thereof, although some passages in his plays have been cruelly twisted about in order to illustrate false ideas. Two specimens will serve to estimate their value.

Where go you with bats and clubs?

Coriolanus, Act i. sc. 1.

Here the friend of Caius Marcius is addressing a mob of Roman citizens, who declare themselves

“suitors, with strong breaths, and strong arms too ;” and moreover mutinous from dire calamity ; a position of affairs not exactly suited for a noble sport.

Another favourite quotation is from *Love’s Labour Lost*. (Act v. sc. 2)—“He is a marvellous good neighbour in sooth, and a very good bowler.” Persons acquainted with the play in question are aware that the scene is laid in Navarre, a country stretching from the Pyrenees to the river Ebro, and has Pampeluna for its capital ; a country never having the slightest pretensions to the ennobling sport of which Englishmen are proud.

That cricket generated in the lifetime of the immortal bard of Avon there can be no doubt ; but that it came under his cognizance is a matter much to be questioned, as it is scarcely probable that a mind of Shakspeare’s calibre (which conjured up such glowing imagery from trifling subjects), would have allowed even a novel embryo game,—rude though it undoubtedly would have been,—to pass altogether unnoticed. True, it might, and unquestionably did, originate among the humbler

classes of society, and most probably in the rural districts. The physical education of youth, such as it was, was narrowed to very small proportions, and this, no doubt, brought the inventive faculty forth. The earliest mention of cricket is made in the reign of Elizabeth. A document now in existence refers to a disputed piece of land—about an acre and a quarter—in the town of Guildford, Surrey, and is entitled “A Garden withheld from the Town.” This garden, according to the testimony of an important witness, was situate in the parish of Holy Trinity, and had, “time out of mind,” belonged to the town, but was appropriated by one John Parrishe to the purposes of a timber-yard and builder’s framing ground. This appropriation gave rise to much dispute; and in the reign of Elizabeth (anno 40) an investigation of the rights of the aforesaid John Parrishe, innholder, now deceased, took place. John Derrick, a gentleman, aged 59, and one of her Majesty’s coroners for the county of Surrey, said he knew the land in question for 50 years or more. It lay waste, and was occupied by the inhabitants of Guildford to saw timber on, and for saw-pits, and for making of

frames of timber for the said inhabitants. When he was a scholar of the Free School at Guildford, he and several of his fellows did run and play there at *cricket* and other plays; and also, that the same was used for the baiting of bears in the said town, until the said John Parrishe did enclose the said parcell of land.—(Russell's "History of Guildford.")

Here, then, the first glimpse of the game is caught; dim and shadowy, it is true, but a glimpse notwithstanding.

Upon the accession of James the First to the English throne, a great stir was made respecting the observance of the Sabbath by the humbler classes; and in 1617 divers bishops applied to the king that liberty might be granted to the people to divert themselves on the Sabbath-day. The king, willing to indulge the prelates in their request, as well as the people in their pastimes, caused certain rules to be drawn up and published under the royal sanction, entitled "The Book of Sports," with a positive injunction to the several parochial incumbents to read the same in their respective churches, upon pain of the king's displeasure; but many of them proving refractory, were

suspended and imprisoned by order of the High Commission Court.

Among the recusants was one Thomas Wilson, a celebrated Puritan divine, rector of Otham, in Kent. He set at nought the king's commandment, whereupon Archbishop Laud suspended him. Mr. Wilson had, however, grown so popular among the inhabitants of the county town, that his preaching invariably attracted large numbers to hear him. His biographer states that "Maidstone was formerly a very prophane town ; insomuch that I have seen morrice dancing, cudgel playing, stool ball, *cricketts*, and many other sports openly and publicly on the Lord's-day."—(See "Life and Death of Thomas Wilson." Published 1672.)

The book, about which the religious feeling of the kingdom had been much shocked, received severe judgment at the hands of the Lords and Commons in the Parliament of 1643. By them it was decreed that "the book concerning and enjoyn- ing and tolerating of sports on the Lord's-day should be forthwith burned by the hands of the common hangman in Cheapside and other usual places ; and to this purpose the sheriffs of London

and Middlesex respectively are hereby required to be assistant to the effectual execution of this order, and see the said books burnt accordingly; and all persons who have any of the said books are hereby required forthwith to deliver them to one of the sheriffs of London, to be burnt according to this order.”—(Maitland’s “History of London.”)

In 1650, Thomas Ken, afterwards the well-known Bishop of Bath and Wells, when at Winchester School, “used to wield a *cricket bat* ;” at least, so says John Timbs, in his “School-days of Eminent Men.” In Thompson’s “Etymons of English Words,” cricket is described as a game played with a club-stick or bat. About the year 1662, a dictionary was published by Edward Phillips, entitled “The New World of English Words, or a General Dictionary.” That the author had no mean opinion of his book may be inferred from the language of the title-page, which concludes with, “Courteous reader, this volume, which the so many years industry of myself and others has brought to such perfection, is for thine and the general good now at last made publick, and I wish thee all happiness in thy necessary search and use

of it. Farewell.” In the book, however, no mention is made of cricket ; but a very few years later (1685), the same writer, who was a nephew of the celebrated “blind man eloquent,” published a second edition of his “Mysteries of Love and Eloquence.” In this the aforesaid Edward Phillips puts the following remarkable language into the mouth of a bumpkin, in an address to his betrothed : “Will you not, when you have me, throw stools at my head, and cry, ‘Would my eyes had been beat out by a *cricket-ball* the day before I saw thee?’”

Mention is made about this period of one Henry Tonge, Chaplain on board his Majesty’s ships *Assistance*, *Bristol*, and *Royal Oak*, at Antioch, who with the consul and about forty Englishmen rode out of the city on a fine May morning to recreate themselves in a valley about four miles from the city. The reverend historian says : “There a princely tent was pitched, and we had several pastimes and sports, such as duck-hunting, fishing, shooting, hand-ball and *krickett*, and then a noble dinner brought thither, with great plenty of all sorts of wines, punch, and lemonade ; at six o’clock

we returned all home in good order, but soundly tired and weary.”

Among other items in an Eton school bill, in the year 1688, is a charge of ninepence for a ram and a *bat*. Two years later, the words bat, ball, and wicket are identified with the sporting language of these collegians. In fact, cricket found many energetic supporters in its early stages at Eton, to which history abundantly testifies, as would also the “bowling-green,” had it the power of speech.

The first known poem on cricket emanated from Eton towards the close of the seventeenth century, and was entitled “*Certamen Pilæ*.” Thus it is clear that the game had taken sufficient root in the juvenile mind to excite the fancy of the poet, and the notice of a publisher, one William Golding, of King’s College, who deemed the effusion worthy a place in “*Musæ Juveniles*.”

Hence it appears that nearly two centuries ago it was deemed a matter of some importance to furnish the English youth with instruments of relief from the studies of the desk. Nor were examples of the benefit to be derived thereby

wanting. The gymnasium was quite as essential a portion of Greek education as the school-room, and the limbs of youths, and even of grown men, were as vigorously trained in athletics as their brains in arithmetic, rhetoric, and philosophy. It was a wise and sound policy which led the ancients thus to value the bodily health and vigour that are to be gained by a good physical training. Doubtless, the minds both of boys and men would be far healthier, and their lives far happier, if the same honour were now paid to skill and strength in physical exercises, and if the whole population were carefully aided and encouraged in the pursuit of active and commendable sports, as were the citizens of the Greek republics. True is it, that nearly all the public schools of England have attached to them ample playing-ground for cricket. But how limited is the privilege, when the bulk of the rising race is considered? Schools are built for the young, and it is questionable whether he who opens a gymnasium is not as useful a man as he who endows a college, and as valuable when he promotes a play-ground as when he establishes a school.

“The game of pall-mall in all probability was the offspring of the Stuart dynasty, and was most in fashion during the reigns of Charles I. and II. The gossiping Pepys remarks, the first time he ever saw the game of pall-mall was when the Duke of York, brother of Charles II., was playing in the park. The new game speedily became fashionable. The Mall had to be carefully made and kept, to fit it for the sport; the earth was mixed and covered all over with powdered cockle-shells, that made it bind like gravel. In dry weather the surface would turn to dust, and thus deaden the spring of the ball. A long pole was erected, from which protruded an arm at a short distance from the top; at the extremity of the arm was attached a ring; the players were furnished with a club of the ordinary length of a walking bat or stick, and the object aimed at was to drive the ball from the ground through the ring. A picture of this may be seen in Carter’s “Westminster.” The present Pall Mall not only derives its name from the sport, but points out the locality where Pepys watched the play.

In a book entitled “The Complete Gamester,”

published in 1674, there is given a summary of the games then in vogue, but cricket is not included therein.

Nat Thompson, in the "*Loyal Protestant*," published in 1682, and the "*London Gazette*," a few years subsequent, also refer to the table of sports then recognised; both, however, are silent with respect to cricket.

Pennant, in his "*History of London*," speaks of Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington, one of the famous Cabal, who had a house near the site of the present Buckingham House, which went by his name. This was sold to John Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham, who rebuilt it. There was a noted gaming-house at Marybone which the duke constantly visited. This place was the assemblage of all the infamous sharpers of the time. His Grace always gave a dinner at the conclusion of the season; and his parting toast was, "May as many of us who remain unchanged, next spring meet here again." Lady Mary Wortley alludes to this in the following line:—

Some dukes at Marybone bowl their time away.

What the "conclusion of the season" and the

“next spring meeting” really meant, are open questions. Many extracts might be made from correspondence recently come to light, strongly bearing upon the opinion that the gambling spirit was so largely infused into early cricket that the game was extremely unpopular.

Loud menaces were heard and foul disgrace,
Till sense was lost in sound, and silence fled the place.

From the positive and negative evidence here adduced, it is quite rational to infer that cricket had made but a very slight advance from its infancy up to a hundred years of age; and although it had originated with the illiterate and obscure, there is proof of patronage among the better informed and higher standing in society.

A commentator on Love's poem, in 1746, observes: “I have taken a prodigious deal of pains to find out when cricket first appeared, and who was the author of it; but it is to be lamented that history is extremely deficient on this head. There is great reason, however, to think that it is an European invention, and perhaps ‘a sprout of Great Britain;’ for the Chinese, who lay claim to

printing and gunpowder so long before we had any notion of them, to our great satisfaction lay not the least claim to it." That "history should be deficient" at the time to which the foregoing commentator alludes is no wonder, when the state of learning among the classes most concerned in cricket is taken into account; and as to the time of Edward III., at which some say it existed, the standard of literature was lamentably low. It was by no means uncommon for bishops, when testifying synodal acts, to do so by proxy in the following terms:—"As I cannot read myself, N. N. hath subscribed for me;" or, "As my lord bishop cannot write himself, at his request I have subscribed."—(Turner's "*History of the Middle Ages.*")

Golf continues to be the standing amusement for summer in Scotland. "The natives," says an historian of the last century, "are expert at all the diversions common in England—the cricket excepted—of which they have no notion: the gentlemen look upon it as too athletic and mechanical."

The Scotch are, however, beginning to turn their attention to it, and clubs are formed for the

furtherance of the game. Not so the French, for though a popular writer once made a desperate effort to produce evidence of cricket-playing in France 300 years back, he failed most signally. A critic in the *Army and Navy Gazette* says the Gallic mind is most obtuse regarding our national sport; they can see no delight in being bowled over at 22 yards, or of getting in the way of "leather" at a much longer range. The report of a Greenwich match was read with astonishment at Paris, not unmingled with compassion for the maimed veterans who took the field. Surprise reached its climax when it was seen that on the "One-arm" having terminated their innings the stumps (*moignons*) were drawn. The error on the part of the translator led to the belief that the drawing of the stumps was a punishment inflicted on the "One-arm" for having lost the match.

Here it may be well to stop, lest the reader have cause to exclaim, "He draweth out the thread of his verbosity finer than the staple of his argument." Nevertheless a facetious critic presses his claim to be heard while presenting cricket under a novel aspect.

“ A good cricketer,” he maintains, “ should have an eye as sharp as a needle, a hand as tough as a thimble, and a leg as light as a bodkin. Russia should be able to produce no leather equal to his lungs, and India should have no rubber half as elastic as his muscles. He should have an eye as steady as a glass, with a frame of iron ; and his limbs should be a study to the limner. Cricket can only be played by men of excellent temper, willing, like Hampden, to fall on the field, and who can submit cheerfully to the battery of the bat, and of assault from the ball. The game is essentially English, and though our countrymen carry it abroad wherever they go, it is difficult to inoculate or knock it into the foreigner. The Italians are too fat for cricket ; the French too thin ; the Dutch too dumpy ; the Belgians too bilious ; the Flemish too flatulent ; the East Indians too peppery ; the Laplandlers too bow-legged ; the Swiss too sentimental ; the Greeks too lazy ; the Egyptians too long in the neck ; and the Germans too short in the wind.”

SECOND PERIOD.

O parent Britain, minion of renown,
 Whose far-extended fame all nations own.
 Of sloth-promoting sports, forewarned, beware,
 Nor think thy pleasures are thy meanest care ;
 Feed on the joys that health and vigour give,
 Where freedom reigns, 'tis worth the while to live.
 Nursed on thy plains first Cricket learnt to please,
 And taught thy sons to slight inglorious ease.
 And see where busy counties strive for fame,
 Each greatly potent at this mighty game ;
 Fierce Kent, ambitious of the first applause,
 Against the world combined asserts her cause.
 Gay Surrey sometimes triumphs o'er the field,
 And fruitful Sussex cannot brook to yield ;
 While London, queen of cities, proudly vies,
 And often grasps the well-disputed prize.
 Thus while Greece triumph'd o'er the barbarous earth,
 Seven cities struggled, which gave Homer birth.

JAMES LOVE (1746).

PROEM. Early glimpses—Dean Swift's satire—The game censured—No remedy at law in the matter of bets—Origin of laws—Size and shape of the bat—Early

practice in a match—Lord John Sackville's challenge to All England—Score of the same, and a Poem by James Love descriptive of the play and players—Formation of Hambledon and Sevenoaks Vine Club—Hampshire and Sussex v. Surrey and Kent—Hampshire and England—Dr. Perfect's Poem on Cricket—First published set of laws—A match between twelve ladies at Moulsey Hurst—Great match at Bourne Park between Surrey and Kent for 2000*l*.

HAVING now got clear of the “mists of fabling time,” the reader may peradventure find himself on a more agreeable road, that is to say, there may be occasionally a stirring incident to arrest attention and provoke inquiry. Seeing, however, that he has just passed the threshold of the eighteenth century, little has to be recorded; for though the game of ericket had attraeted the attention of many a writer of the period, their pens were so shallowly dipt into historie ink that their stories have no life in them. The mere mention of the name seems to have suffieed. Nor does this bare notice appear in a very attractive form. The few glimpses afforded of ericketing progress reveal the ugly faet of a spirit of gambling as an associate. The genius of the game became endangered

by the wild extremes into which it rushed, from the ardour of some of its newly-acquired patrons. In fact, an heterogeneous element was infused, and much mischief was the consequence.

Dean Swift, in satirizing John Bull (1712) says he could not help discovering some remains of his nature when he happened to meet with a football or a cricket match. Whatever may have been the public estimate of the game, it is quite clear that its progress was watched with a jealous eye by the censors of the time. Nor can this be much wondered at. The spirit for gambling which actuated the idle classes, found its way into every kind of sport affording the least chance of action, and if great occasions presented themselves, they were not permitted to pass over unheeded. "The diversion of cricket," says a writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1743, "may be proper at holiday time and in the country, but upon days when men ought to be busy in the neighbourhood of a great city, it is improper to a high degree; it draws numbers of people from their employments, to the ruin of their families; it brings together crowds of apprentices and servants, whose time is not their own;

it propagates a spirit of idleness at a juncture when with the utmost industry, our debts, taxes, and decay of trade will scarce allow us to get bread; it is a most notorious breach of the laws, as it gives the most open encouragement to gaming—the advertisements most impudently reciting that great sums are laid, that some people are so little ashamed of breaking the laws they had a hand in making, that they give public notice of it.”

From the whole tone of this article, it is clear the writer’s pen was dipt in gall as well as ink. There can, however, be no question of the evil tendencies from the propagation of cricket under existing circumstances. In the 9th of Anne it had been found necessary to frame a law against gaming; and in two actions brought to recover the sum of twenty-five pounds, in each the plaintiffs were defeated: the judges held, however good the game of cricket might be, the bets were bad, and the law forbad it. (Waller’s Law Reports).

As yet the general dimensions of the bat, as well as the material and capacity of the ball, are unrecorded, nor is posterity enlightened as to the precise form the game had at this time assumed,

or what were the laws for its government; for it is obvious that oral if not written ones must have existed, or the bets about which the judges and censors had so much to say could not have been the subject of their respective strictures. Whatever the laws were, it is evident that they must have been suggested by "England's well-bred heirs," who had turned their attention to cricket both as a source of amusement and profit. Nor is it likely that the codification was the result of one general meeting, or of one season, but undoubtedly of many. Nyren, in quoting a MS. furnished him by Mr. Ward, says "the bat was similar to an old-fashioned dinner knife, curved at the back, and sweeping in the form of a volute at the front and end, that the stumps were one foot high and two feet wide, surmounted by a bail. Between the stumps a hole was cut in the ground, large enough to contain the ball and butt end of the bat. In running a notch, the striker was required to put his bat into this hole, instead of the modern practice of touching over the popping crease. The wicket-keeper, in putting out the striker, was obliged, when the ball was thrown in, to place it

in the hole before the adversary could reach it with his bat. An engraving of cricket in this primitive stage is preserved in the Pavilion at Lord's. As before observed, the writers who condescended to notice the existence of cricket, went scarcely beyond this meagre tribute, and not before the year 1746 can there be traced any record calculated to show the precise way in which a match was played. In that year, Lord John Sackville, on the part of the County of Kent, challenged All England, and so great was the interest taken in it that James Love, a comedian, of Richmond, and member of the cricket club at that place, wrote a lengthy poem descriptive of the match, which is given entire. The author, in a dedicatory page to a second edition, says the poem was the effusion of a youthful mind. The greatest circumstance in its favour is that it is founded upon fact, and may serve to entertain the true lovers of cricket by a recollection of many particulars at a time when the game was cultivated with the utmost assiduity, and patronized by the personal appearance and management of some of the most capital people in the kingdom."

ARGUMENT. The game—Five on the Kent side out for three runs—The odds run high on the side of Kent—Bryan and Newland go in—They help the game greatly—Bryan is unfortunately put out by Kips—Kent, in the first innings, 93 a-head—Kent, in the second innings, very near losing, the two last men being in—Waymark unhappily misses a catch, and by that means Kent is victorious.

And now the sons of Kent, immortal grown
By a long series of acquired renown,
Smile at each weak attempt to shake their fame,
And thus with vaunting pride their might proclaim :
Long have we borne the palm, triumphant still,
No county fit to match our wondrous skill ;
But that all tamely may confess our sway,
And own us masters of the glorious day,
Pick the best sportsmen from each several shire,
And let them, if they dare, 'gainst us appear ;
Soon will we prove the mightiness we boast,
And make them feel their error to their cost.
Fame quickly gave the bold defiance vent,
And magnified the undaunted sons of Kent ;
The boastful challenge sounded far and near,
And spreading, reached at length great Newland's ear ;
Where, with his friend, all negligent, he laughed,
And threatened future glories as they quaffed.
Struck with the daring phrase, a piercing look
On Bryan first he cast, and thus he spoke :
And dare the slaves this paltry message own ?
What, then, is Newland's arm no better known ?

Have I, for this, the ring's wide ramparts broke,
While Runney shuddered at the mighty stroke?
Now, by Alcmena's sinewed son I swear,
Whose dreadful blows no mortal strength can bear;
By Hermes, offspring too of thundering Jove,
Whose wingèd feet like nimble lightning move;
By every patron of the pleasing war,
My chief delight, my glory, and my care,
This arm shall cease the far-driven ball to throw,
Shrink from the bat, and feebly shun the blow,
The trophies from this conquering forehead torn
By boys and women shall in scorn be worn,
Ere I neglect to let these blusterers know
There live who dare oppose, and beat them too!
Illustrious Bryan, now's the time to prove
To Cricket charms thy much experienced love;
Let us with care each hardy friend inspire,
And fill their souls with emulating fire!
Come on; true courage never is dismayed.
He spoke: the heroes listened and obeyed;
Urged by their chiefs, the friends of Cricket hear,
And joyous in the fated lists appear.
The day approached. To view the charming scene
Exulting thousands crowd the level green.
A place there is where city warriors meet,
Wisely determined not to fight, but eat;
Where harmless thunder rattles through the skies
While the plump buffcoat fires, and shuts his eyes;
To the pleased mob the bursting cannons tell
At every circling glass how much they swell.
Here, in the intervals of bloodless war,
The swains with milder pomp their arms prepare.

Wide o'er the extended plain, the circling string
Restrains the impatient throug, and marks a ring ;
But if encroaching on forbidden ground
The heedless crowd o'erleap the proper bound,
Smith plies with strenuous arm the smacking whip,
Back to the line the affrighted rebels skip.

The stumps are pitched. Each hero now is seen,
Springs o'er the fence, and bounds along the green,
In decent white most gracefully arrayed,
Each strong built limb in all its pride displayed.
Now, Muse, exert thy vigour, and describe
The mighty chieftains of each glorious tribe !
Bold Runsey first, before the Kentish band,
God-like, appeared, and seized the chief command.
Judicious swain ! whose quick discerning soul
Observes the various seasons as they roll ;
Well skilled to spread the thriving plant around,
And paint with fragrant flowers the enamelled ground ;
Conscious of worth, with front erect, he moves,
And poises in his hand the bat he loves.
Him Dorset's prince protects, whose youthful heir
Attends with ardent glee the mighty player ;
He, at mid wicket, disappoints the foe,
Springs at the coming ball, and mocks the blow.
E'en thus the rattlesnake, as travellers say,
With steadfast eye observes its destined prey,
Till fondly gazing on the glittering balls,
Into her mouth the unhappy victim falls.
The baffled hero quits his bat with pain,
And, muttering, lags across the shouting plain.

Brisk *Hodswell* next strides on with comely pride,
Tough as the subject of his trade, the hide ;
In his firm palm the hard-bound ball he bears,
And mixes joyous with his pleased compeers.
Bromleyan Mills attends the Kentish throng,
And *Robin*, from his size, surnamed the *Long*.
Six more, as ancient custom has thought meet,
With willing steps the intrepid band complete.
On the adverse party, towering o'er the rest,
Left-handed *Newland* fires each arduous breast ;
From many a bounteous crop the foodful grain,
With swelling stores, rewards his useful pain,
While the glad farmer with delighted eyes
Smiles to behold his close-crammed granaries rise.
Next *Bryan* came, whose cautious hand could fix,
In neat-disposed array the well-piled bricks ;
With him alone scarce any youth could dare
At *single wicket* try the doubtful war ;
For few save him the exalted honour claim
To play with judgment all the various game.
Next his accomplished vigour *Cuddy* tries,
Whose sheltering hand the neat-formed garb supplies.
To the dread plain her *Dungate* Surrey sends,
And *Waymark* on the jovial train attends ;
Equal in numbers, bravely they begin
The dire dispute. The foes of Kent go in.

With wary judgment, scattered o'er the green,
The ambitious chiefs of fruitful Kent are seen.
Some at a distance for the long ball wait,
Some nearer planted seize it with the bat.

Hodswell and Mills behind the wickets stand,
And each by turns the flying ball command.
Four times from Hodswell's arm it skims the grass.
Then Mills succeeds. Then seekers-out change place.
Observe, cries Hodswell to the wondering throng,
Be judges now whose arms are better strung.
He said, then poised, and rising as he threw,
Swift from his hand the fatal missive flew;
Not with more force the death-conveying ball
Springs from the cannon to the battered wall;
Nor swifter yet the pointed arrows go
Launched from the vigour of the Parthian bow.
It whizz'd along with unimagined force,
And bore down all, resistless in its course.
To such impetuous might compelled to yield,
The *bail* and mangled *stumps* bestrew the field.
Now glows with ardent heat the unequal fray,
While Kent usurps the honour of the day.
Loud from the ring resounds the piercing shout—
“Three notches only gained, five leaders out!”
But, while the drooping player invokes the gods,
The busy better calculates the odds;
Swift round the plain in buzzing murmurs run,
“I'll hold you ten to four, Kent.” “Done, sir, done!”
What numbers can with equal force describe
The increasing terrors of the losing tribe;
When, vainly striving 'gainst the conquering ball,
They see their boasted chiefs dejected fall?
Now the two mightiest of the fainting host
Pant to redeem the fame their fellows lost.
Eager for glory—for the worst prepared,

With powerful skill their threatened wickets guard.
Bryan, collected for the deadly stroke,
First cast to Heaven a supplicating look,
Then prayed—Propitious powers! assist my blow,
And grant the flying orb may shock the foe!
This said, he waved his bat with forceful swing,
And drove the battered pellet o'er the ring;
Then rapid five times crossed the shining plain
Ere the departed ball returned again.
Nor was thy prowess, valiant Newman, mean,
Whose strenuous arm increased the game eighteen;
While from thy stroke the ball returning hies,
Uninterrupted clamours rend the skies.
But oh! what horrid changes oft are seen,
When faithless fortune seems the most serene!
Beware, unhappy Bryan! oh, beware!
Too heedless swain, when such a foe is near.
Fired with success, elated with his luck,
He glowed with rage, regardless how he struck;
But forced the fatal negligence to mourn,
Kips crushed his stumps before the youth could turn.
The rest their unavailing vigour try,
And by the power of Kent demolished die.
Awakened echo speaks the innings o'er,
And forty notches deep indent the score.
Now Kent prepares her better skill to show,
Loud rings the ground at each tremendous blow;
With nervous arm performing godlike deeds,
Another and another chief succeeds,
Till tir'd with fame, the conquering hosts give way,

And head by *thirteen* strokes the toilsome fray.
Fresh roused to arms, each labour-loving swain
Swells with new strength, and dares the field again;
Again to Heaven aspires the cheerful sound,
The strokes re-echo o'er the spacious ground.
The *Champion* strikes. When scarce arriving fair,
The glancing ball mounts upward in the air.
The batsman sees it, and with mournful eyes
Fixed on the ascending pellet as it flies,
Thus suppliant claims the favour of the skies:
O! mighty Jove, and all ye powers above,
Let my regarded prayer your pity move;
Grant me but this—Whatever youth shall dare
Snatch at the prize descending through the air,
Lay him extended on the grassy plain,
And make his bold adventurous effort vain!
He said: the powers attending his request,
Granted one part, to winds consigned the rest.
And now illustrious *Sackville* where he stood,
The approaching ball with cautious pleasure viewed.
At once he sees the chief's impending doom,
And pants for mighty honours yet to come.
Swift as the falcon darting on its prey,
He springs elastic on the verdant way;
Sure of success, flies upward with a bound,
Derides the slow approach, and spurns the ground.
Prone slips the youth, yet glorious in his fall,
With arm extended shows the captive ball.
Loud acclamations every mouth employ,
And echo rings the undulating joy.
The Counties now the game triumphant lead,

And vaunt their numbers fifty-seven a-head.
To end the immortal honours of the day,
The chiefs of Kent once more their might essay.
No trifling toil e'en yet remains untried,
Nor mean the numbers of the adverse side :
With double skill each dangerous ball they shun,
Strike with observing eye, with caution run.
At length they know the wished-for number near,
Yet wildly pant, and almost own their fear :
The two last champions even now are in,
And but three notches yet remain to win ;
When almost ready to recant its boast,
Ambitious Kent within an ace had lost,
The mounting ball, again obliquely driven,
Cuts the pure ether, soaring up to heaven ;
Waymark was ready ! Waymark, all must own,
As sure a swain to catch as e'er was known :
Yet, whether Jove and all-compelling Fate
In their high will determined Kent should beat,
Or the lamenting youth too much relied
On sure success, and fortune often tried—
The erring ball, amazing to be told,
Slipt through his outstretched hand, and mock'd his
hold ;
And now the Sons of Kent complete the game,
And firmly fix their everlasting fame.

Previous to this match the score was kept
by notches on a short lath ; hence the term
“notches” for runs. On the occasion in question

the feats of the various players were committed to paper, for which posterity ought to be thankful, as it settles many points otherwise pregnant with conjecture. The full score of the match is copied from a manuscript once in the possession of the late Mr. Ward.

KENT AGAINST ALL ENGLAND.

PLAYED ON THE ARTILLERY GROUND, LONDON.

ENGLAND.

1st Innings.			2nd Innings.		
	Runs.			Runs.	
Harris	0	b by Hadswell	4	b Mills	
Dingate	3	b Ditto	11	b Hadswell	
Newland	0	b Mills	3	b Ditto	
Cuddy	0	b Hadswell	2	c Harris	
Green	0	b Mills	5	b Mills	
Waymark.....	7	b Ditto	9	b Hadswell	
Bryan	12	b Kips	7	c Kips	
Newland	13	not out	15	c by Lord J. Sack-	
				ville	
Harris	0	b Hadswell	1	b Hadswell	
Smith	0	c Bartrum	8	b Mills	
Newland	0	b Mills	5	not out	
Byes	0		2	Byes	
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
	40			70	

KENT.

1st Innings.			2nd Innings.		
	Runs.			Runs.	
Lord J. Sack-					
ville	5	c by Waymark	0	b Harris	
Long Robin ...	7	b Newland	9	b Newland	
Mills	0	b Harris	6	c Ditto	
Hadswell	0	b Ditto	5	not out	
Cutbush	3	b Green	7	not out	
Bartrum	2	b Newland	0	b Newland	
Danes	6	b Ditto	0	c Smith	
Sawyer	0	c Waymark	5	b Newland	
Kips	12	b Harris	10	b Harris	
Mills	7	not out	2	b Newland	
Romney	11	b Harris	8	c Harris	
Byes	0		3	Byes	
	—			—	
	53			58	

As the Hambleton Club was not in existence at the time this match was played, the oft-repeated story of Hampshire being the cradle of cricket, and the quarter whence all the players of note in the early part of the eighteenth century came, goes for nothing. Nor does it appear that England drew any of its forces on the occasion from Hants. It is true that the famous Vine Club was alike unknown at the same period, but then the county of

Kent had several corners in it for the propagation of cricket, where it received the fostering care of men of wealth and spirit also, and who could summon at a brief notice such a team as England itself found it very difficult to cope withal. Unfortunately the notching knife and stick were still more in favour than pen and paper; hence no reliable scores are known to exist. It is stated, about the year 1760, nine men of Dartford, aided by two of Middlesex, beat All England twice. Both Surrey and Sussex at this time put in strong claims to notice, and Hants had really obtained for cricket "a local habitation and a name." The well-known match at Bishopsbourne, near Canterbury, which gave rise to Duncombe's parody on the "Chevy Chase," entitled "Surrey Triumphant, or the Kentish Men's Defeat" (1773); as well as the poem "Assist, all ye Muses," written a year before, when Kent proved victorious over Hampshire, are sufficiently illustrative.

The *Universal Magazine* of August, 1777, says: "On the 25th was determined (after three days' play), on Guildford Basin, the great cricket match, 'The Counties of Hampshire and Sussex

against Surrey and Kent ;' which, after the greatest contest ever remembered, was won by the former with only one wicket to go down."

A still greater success for Hants is recorded in September of the same year, and is thus summarized : " Yesterday evening (18th), exactly at six o'clock, the grand match between the county of Hampshire and All England was finished, in the Artillery Ground, and the numbers in the match were as follows : Monday, Hampshire got 187 notches and England 32, with two wickets down. Tuesday, England, 119 ; total, 151. Hampshire, second innings, 85, with four men out. Wednesday, 96, making on the whole a majority of 247. England, second innings, 117 ; majority in the match for Hampshire, 130. Lord Tankerville and his man were the two first who went in yesterday, and got betwixt them 49 notches, and were both so unfortunate as to be caught out, his lordship by Small and his man by Aylward. Most of the others were caught out, which gave so quick a turn to the game."

Dr. William Perfect, an eminent physician, residing at Malling, in Kent, published a large

volume of poems in 1768, in which cricket is spoken of thus :

Scarce potent Sol's meridian lustre o'er,
When from the village throngs promiscuous pour,
In blended group around the level dale,
While CRICKET* does obstreperously prevail.
Mindless of toil, and of the sultry ray,
The eager youth the admiring crowds survey,
Commence the game, when some their vigour lend,
To bowl velocious, and the wicket rend ;
Some strike the ball, and all the gazers please,
Those watch the wicket and the field keep these.
Some catch the ball and gather instant fame,
And all the dale resounds with loud acclaim.
Some mark the strokes upon the shaven spray,
And others umpires stand whom all obey.
But now slow-setting sinks the western sun ;
The toil is ended, and the game is done.
Then all return, and o'er the goblet tell
How far one struck, another bowl'd how well—
How all performed, till Morpheus seize the tale,
And spread his pinions o'er the weary vale.

Singularly enough, in the same month of the same year, Mr. Town, "critic and censor general,"

* This is a game in great vogue in many parts of England, particularly in the counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, and Hampshire.

speaking of Toby Bumper, a young fellow of family and fortune, and not without talents, says :
“Nobody is better known among the hackney coachmen as a brother whip, and he is frequently engaged in the Artillery Ground with Faulkner and Dingate at cricket, and is himself esteemed as good a bat as either of the Bennets.”

As the game advanced, the laws for its regulation were altered and enlarged. About twenty years ago the literary executor of a once celebrated cricketing family placed a manuscript in the hands of the writer hereof, in which were a few things “hard to be understood ;” but the laws of cricket in the middle of the eighteenth century could be easily made out, and in order to a right appreciation of their validity they were published in the “Cricketers’ Manual,” at that time the only book treating upon the history of cricket extant. As these laws are the best commentary upon the game at the period alluded to, it may not be out of place to reproduce them here.

“The pitching y^e first Wicket is to be determined by y^e cast of a piece of money When y^e

first Wicket is pitched and y^e popping Crease Cut which must be exactly 3 feet 10 inches from y^e Wicket y^e Other Wicket is to be pitched directly opposite at 22 yards distance and y^e other popping crease cut 3 feet 10 inches before it. The Bowling Creases must be cut in a direct line from each stump The stumps must be 22 Inches long and y^e Bail 6 Inches The Ball must weigh between 5 and 6 Ounces. When y^e Wickets are both pitched and all y^e Creases Cut the party that wins the toss up may order which side may go in first at his Option

“LAWS FOR Y^e BOWLERS 4 BALLS AND OVER

“The Bowler must deliver y^e Ball with one foot behind y^e Crease even with y^e Wicket and when he has Bowled one Ball or more shall Bowl to y^e number 4 before he Changes Wickets and he Shall Change but once in y^e Same Innings He may order y^e player that is in at his wicket to Stand on which side of it he pleases at a reasonable distance. If he delivers y^e Ball with his hinder foot over ye Bowling Crease the Umpire Shall Call no Ball though she be Struck or y^e Player is Bowled

out which he shall do without being asked and no Person shall have any right to ask him

“LAWS FOR Y^e STRIKERS, OR THOSE THAT ARE IN.

“If y^e Wicket is Bowled down its out If he Strikes or treads down or falls himself upon y^e wicket in striking [but not in over running] its out A Stroke or Nip over or under his Batt or upon his hands [but not arms] if y^e Ball be held before She touches y^e Ground though She be hugged to the body its out If in Striking both his feet are over y^e popping Crease and his Wicket put down except his Batt is down within its out If he runs out of his Ground to hinder a Catch its out. If a Ball is nipped up and he Strikes her again Wilfully before she comes to y^e Wicket its out. If y^e players have crossed each other he that runs for the Wicket that is put down is out. If they are not Crossed he that returns is out. If in running a Notch y^e Wicket is struck down by a Throw before his Foot Hand or Batt is over y^e Popping crease or a Stump hit by y^e Ball though y^e bail was down its out But if y^e bail is down before he that catches y^e Ball must strike a Stump

out of y^e Ground Ball in Hand then its out. If the Striker touches or takes up y^e Ball before she is lain quite still unless asked by y^e Bowler or Wicket-keeper its out.

“BATT FOOT OR HAND OVER Y^e CREASE.

“When y^e Ball has been in Hand by one of y^e keepers or Stopers and y^e Player has been at home He may go where he pleases until y^e next Ball is bowled. If either of y^e Strikers is crossed in his running Ground designedly, which design must be determined by the Umpires NB The Umpires may order that notch to be scored When y^e Ball is hit up either of the Strikers may hinder y^e catch in his running Ground or if She is hit directly across y^e Wickets y^e Other Player may place his Body any where within y^e swing of his Batt so as to hinder y^e Bowler from catching her, but he must neither Strike at her nor touch her with his hands If a Striker nips a Ball up just before him he may fall before his Wicket, or pop down his Batt before Shee comes to it to Save it The Bail hanging on one Stump though y^e Ball hit y^e Wicket its not out.

“LAWS FOR WICKET KEEPERS.

“The Wicket Keepers shall stand at a reasonable distance behind y^e Wicket and shall not move till y^e Ball is out of y^e Bowler's Hands and shall not by any noise incommode y^e Striker and if his hands knees foot or head be over or before his Wicket though the Ball hit it it shall not be out.

“LAWS FOR Y^e UMPIRES.

“To allow 2 Minutes for each man to come in when one is out, and 10 Minutes between Each Hand to mark y^e Ball that it may not be changed They are sole judges of all outs and ins, of all fair and unfair Play of frivolous delays, of all hurts whether real or pretended and are discretionally to allow what time they think Proper before y^e Game goes on again In case of a real hurt to a Striker they are to allow another to come in and the Person hurt to come in again But are not to allow a fresh Man to Play on either side on any Account They are sole judges of all hindrances, crossing y^e Players in running and Standing unfair to Strike and in case of hindrance may order a notch to be scored

They are not to order any man out unless appealed to by one of y^e Players These laws are to y^e Umpires Jointly Each Umpire is y^e sole judge of all Nips and Catches Ins and outs good or bad runs at his own Wicket and his determination shall be absolute and he shall not be changed for another Umpire without y^e Consent of both Sides When y^e 4 Balls are Bowled he is to call over These laws are Separately When both Umpires shall call Play 3 Times 'tis at y^e peril of giving y^e Game from them that refuse Play."

In 1775 was published, by Williams, of Fleet-street, "The new Articles of the game of Cricket, as settled and revised at the Star and Garter, Pall-mall, February 25th, 1774, by a committee of noblemen and gentlemen of Kent, &c., to which is added the old laws as settled by the several Cricket Clubs; embellished with a neat copperplate of the representation of the game. Price 6d." This appears to be the first printed book of the kind.

Nearly all the leading contests up to this period were carried on either in the White Conduit Fields or the Artillery Ground adjoining Finsbury-square.

The Hambledon and Sevenoaks Vine Clubs were formed about the middle of the century, but as few reliable records are known to exist respecting their matches, comparative silence on this score must be the result.

The *Annual Register* of the history of Europe makes mention of a match played at Moulsey Hurst on the 3rd of August, 1775, between six unmarried and the same number of married women. It was won by the former, though one of the latter ran seventeen notches. There were great bets depending.

The most interesting county meeting was that between Surrey and Kent, which gave rise to Duncombe's long parody on "Chevy Chase." A manuscript of the score relating to the match is here faithfully transcribed :—

"The following is a list of the Noblemen and Gentlemen Cricketers who played on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, July 19, 20th, and 21st, 1773, in Bourne Paddock, near Canterbury, the seat of Sir Horace Mann, Bart., for 2000*l.* :—

SURREY.

Names.	Out by whom.	Out by whom.	
Lord Tankerville,	b by May.....	0 c by Mr. Davis.....	3
Mr. Bartholomew,	c Simmons...	3 b Miller.....	10
Mr. Lewis,	b the Duke ...	0 last man in	27
Mr. Stone,	b the Duke ...	12 b Miller	24
Stevens, <i>alias</i>			
Lumpy	b Miller	6 b Miller	8
John Woods,	c Sir H. Mann	6 c R. May	6
Palmer,	c Davis	22 c the Duke	38
Thomas White,	b the Duke ...	5 c Mr. Hussey	60
Yalden,	last man in ...	17 b the Duke	1
Childs,	b May	0 b the Duke	3
Frances,	b the Duke ...	5 c Wood.....	30
	Bye	1 Byes	7
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		77	217

KENT.

Names.	Out by whom.	Out by whom.	
Duke of Dorset,	b by Woods... 25	c by Woods	1
Sir Horace Mann,	b Woods	3 c Lord Tankerville	22
Mr. Davis,	b Woods	4 c Mr. Lewis.....	0
Mr. Hussey,	last man in...	0 c Woods	0
Miller,	c Yalden	13 run out.....	10
Simmons,	b Lumpy.....	5 c Yalden	4
R. May,	b Woods	0 last man in	0
Thomas May,	b Lumpy.....	4 c Childs	5
Louch,	c Mr. Stone..	5 b Lumpy	26
Pattenden,	c Mr. Lewis...	0 b Lumpy	1
Wood, of Seale,	c Woods	1 c Mr. Bartholomew	9
	Byes	3 Byes	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		63	78

Although Surrey effected a triumphant victory, a commentator of the time remarks: "In the county of Kent there still exists a passionate love of the game for its own sake—for the sake of health, the sunshine, the pure air, the green turf, freshness of heart, elasticity of frame, and quickness of mind; all of which are combined in its practice. It strings the nerves and exercises the blood of all who play, and rubs the wrinkles out of the hearts of all who witness it."

Better to hunt in fields for health unbought
Than fee the doctor for a nauseous draught.
The wise for health on exercise depend;
God never made his work for man to mend.

And again: "No real philanthropist can gaze on the crowds of smiling faces without gratification, from the 'well-to-do' in life down to the laughing sunburnt sons of the soil and their bright-eyed and ruddy sweethearts; the hearty shouts when the ball flies with a noise like the crack of a rifle from the smooth bat, and joyous clapping of hands at a clean catch or clever throw. No one can contemplate scenes like these without increased love for his species, and a desire to promote their improvement."

THIRD PERIOD.

Vicisti et victum tendere *nummos Cantiaci* vidêre.

VIRG. *ÆN.* 12, VARIAT.

And swift flew the cricket ball over the lawn.

ANON. (1773).

—— a herd of boys with clamour bowled
And stumpt the wicket.

TENNYSON.

Formation of the Marylebone Club—Its constitution and laws—Early matches—First match between Greenwich pensioners: poem respecting it—Introduction of odd sides — Revision of laws — Smokers *v.* Non-Smokers—Eton *v.* Epsom: Poem thereon—Winchester and Harrow Schools—Spread of Cricket—Dress—Bat and ball making, an exclusive branch of manufacture—First book on the elementary principles of Cricket — Public grounds for practice — Islington Albion Club — Introduction of round-arm bowling; its opposition and its progress—The catapulta and balista — Introduction of gauntlets, leg guards, &c.—Changes in law 10—Formation of Clubs—Qualifications for hon. sec., captain, &c.—Cricket song.

THE gradual decadence of the aforementioned metropolitan clubs suggested the idea of forming a new one in the Marylebone district, and to accomplish this, Thomas Lord, who had been for years an attendant upon the members of the White Conduit, secured an area of ten acres, upon which Dorset Square is now situate; and in the month of June, 1787, a match was played between All England and Five of the White Conduit Club, with six picked men. So freely was the bat exercised on this occasion, that 649 runs were scored. All England won by 239 runs. In about a year after the Marylebone Club was elected to the throne of cricket, and at once set about a revision of the laws. From that period to the present it has maintained its supremacy. Dorset Square was not, however, long destined to be the scene of cricketing exploits. Lord was compelled to seek fresh fields and pastures new, and for about three years he pitched his tent in a locality through which the Regent's Canal now passes. Eventually better fortune awaited him, and he settled down upon the spot in St. John's-wood-road known at this day to all the world as "Lord's."

The little knot of five from the White Conduit may be regarded as the founders of the Marylebone Club. They were not long in gathering a large and influential band of supporters, and the club flourished in a manner altogether unexpected. Every year cricket was gaining ground, until it shook off entirely the ill-repute heretofore attached, and instead of being regarded as the pastime for idlers, and even worse personages, it attained a character adapted to the manly and noble.

It is not purposed here to go further into the history of the Marylebone Club. Everybody knows that it makes laws for the universe of cricket. Of its own constitution comparatively little is known, but the following digest may perhaps suffice for the general reader.

The anniversary dinner takes place on the first Wednesday in May, when the season commences.

The practice days begin on the following Friday, and continue every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, until the end of July.

Each member subscribes three pounds for the

season, payable on the first of May. Ten shillings of this goes to the stock purse.

Every new member has to pay one pound entrance to the stock purse in addition to his subscription.

Ballots for new members are held on Monday and Thursday during the season, in the presence of one member of the committee. The drawing takes place immediately after dinner, in the Pavilion, and the drawer of the ballot-box is not opened for ten minutes.

Meetings are held at other times in the Tennis Court, on any day and at any hour when nine members are assembled, at which place the ballot may proceed in the absence of a member of the committee, but the names must be entered by the appointed party in the minute book.

Two black balls exclude, and not less than nine members constitute a ballot.

The name and address of the candidate, with the names of proposer and seconder, must be put up and exposed, either in the Pavilion or Tennis Court, three days preceding any ballot. At the anniver-

sary meeting, candidates may be proposed, seconded, and balloted for without previous notice.

Notice of resignation must be signified by letter to the secretary of the Club before the commencement of the season; otherwise that season subscription must be paid.

The president of each year nominates his successor at the anniversary dinner.

In the absence of the president, the chair is taken by the treasurer, in his absence by the secretary, and in the absence of the three, by the member present of the longest standing in the Club.

The president, treasurer, secretary, together with thirteen gentlemen annually chosen by the members at the anniversary dinner, form a committee for the management of the Club, and for the decisions of all questions relating to rules. Three constitute a quorum.

Two gentlemen, not of the committee, are appointed auditors at the same time and place by the members, to pass the stock purse and match fund accounts.

No gentleman who is not a member of the Club

is admitted to the Pavilion, unless introduced by president or secretary, who are *ex officio* members of the committee, and then only for one day at a time.

No smoking is allowed in the rooms of the Pavilion, or under the verandah.

Notice of any proposed alterations in the laws of cricket must be given to the secretary, who communicates the same to the committee, and, in the event of their considering it fit to be submitted to the Club, calls a general meeting at the Pavilion for such purpose, of which meeting not less than one month's notice must be given by a placard in the Pavilion, and by advertisement in one or more newspapers.

Alterations in the rules of the Club may be proposed at the anniversary dinner, or at a general meeting, on giving fourteen days' notice to the secretary.

Soon as cricket found permanent head-quarters, county clubs sprang rapidly into existence, and parish elevens spotted all the home districts. The notching knife gradually gave way to the pen, and the thin stick to a sheet of foolscap. What, however, went by the name of a score, was, gene-

rally speaking, from its faultiness, altogether a misnomer. In fact, it took many years to bring the scoring faculty out. Sometimes the parish schoolmaster was chosen on account of his admitted readiness at figures, but who unfortunately knew nothing whatever of the subject on which his talents were being expended, and consequently his arithmetic was often at fault. At other times, the man of little learning in the art of cricket was impressed into service; and he not unfrequently cut but a sorry figure in his new undertaking. Hence, nearly all the early scores were more or less documents of a doubtful character. The Marylebone Club had a regular scribe, and to Britcher's and Bentley's books the present generation are indebted for the early doings at Lord's. From these authorities it appears that the Marylebone matches were played by two elevens until the year 1791, when eleven of the Hambledon Club, in their expiring days, were bold enough to confront twenty-two of Middlesex; and late in the same year eleven of Marylebone went down to Nottingham to play twenty-two. The inventive faculty soon found room for exercise, and all kinds of

matches were brought into notice. Nothing appeared too grotesque. Boys and men were not the only exponents, for the bat was grasped by redoubtables of the softer sex, as well as by veterans who in the service of their country had laid down their arms, from having lost a leg, or some other member of the body. In 1796, says the *Annual Register*, a cricket match was played by eleven Greenwich pensioners with one leg against eleven with one arm, for one thousand guineas, at the new cricket ground, Montpelier Gardens, Walworth. About nine o'clock the men arrived in three Greenwich stages. About twelve the wickets were pitched, and the match commenced. Those with but one leg had the first innings, and got 93 runs; those with one arm got but 42. The one-legs commenced their second innings, and six were bowled out after they got 60 runs, so that they left off 111 more than those with one arm. Next morning the match was played out, and the men with one leg beat the one-arms by 103 runs. After the match was finished, the eleven with one leg ran a sweepstakes of 100 yards for twenty guineas, and the three best had prizes. This

extraordinary circumstance called forth severe strictures in the journals of the time. Several songs were written, differing, of course, very materially in style and sentiment. The following, from a reflecting mind, may perhaps be worth preserving :—

ONE ARM *v.* ONE LEG.

There is a pleasure in the thought
That men who have our battles fought
Can meet in friendly feud together,
Though clash of sword and rifle aim
May be reflected in a game
Our children play upon the heather.
Yea, though all strategies of arms
Are bound in fair and false alarms,
Defeat or victory at cricket:
Though bloody deeds by fortress wall
Are parodied when bat and ball
Defend and storm the stubborn wicket.
Thus thought I, when with vision dim,
With feeble step and loss of limb,
Old warriors in the strife contended,
Strove as of yore a veteran band,
That from the foe, by sea and land,
Our king and country had defended.

May be, shouts echoed round the spot
That mingled with the musket shot,

On June the first, so great in story,
Or mimick'd was the deadly stroke
Of cutlass flashing in the smoke,
When Villaret was shorn of glory.
So grew I glad, and like a bard
That yearns to men whose fate is hard,
This simple song and toast repeated :—
Old England's heroes are our boast ;
Long may they guard our ancient coast,
And never, never be defeated !

Long before the close of the eighteenth century the wholesome regulation of "two elevens" for "a match" was departed from, not only by country parties, but by the Marylebone Club itself. At times the numbers were oddly poised. Thus "Thirteen of England *v.* eleven of Hambledon Club;" "Twelve of the M.C.C. *v.* eleven of London;" "Twenty-two of Middlesex *v.* twelve of England;" "Sixteen of Oxford Bullingdon Club *v.* twelve of Marylebone;" "Thirty-three of Norfolk *v.* Eleven of England;" "Twelve of England *v.* Nineteen of Kent;" Eleven of Surrey *v.* Fourteen of England;" &c. &c. Whether this departure from what the chief of the Hambledon Club determined to be the proper number, had

much effect upon the healthy progress of the game, it is not very easy at this distance of time to determine. One thing is certain, the laws were in a constant course of revision. Then as to variety, there was enough to suit the taste and convenience of the most fastidious. Among these was an annual match between Smokers and Non-Smokers. This usually came off in the merry month of May, on Parker's Piece. The conditions were that the smoking business should go on without intermission, and according to a constant observer of the match, the parties "provided themselves with a tolerable stock of the weed, which they blew into the air until oblivion was the result; the amusement was intended to be felt, for it was entirely out of question to derive any of it through the medium of the sight." What says the poet—

Or go to Cambridge like another *gentle*,
Whose folly's well deserving of the *rod*,
To see the boys that patronize cigars
Cricketing those that don't.
If ye are green ye'll go, of course, readers,
If ye are grey ye won't;
Because I went myself, and do pronounce,
A fact sufficiently surprising—

That though the *clouds* were all day rising,
I could not see a single player once.

There is a pictorial representation of this match in the club-room of University Ground, at Cambridge, at the present time.

While this stupid practice was upheld by the men of Cambridge, the youths of Eton could boast of a different course of action. Among the many matches which attracted public attention by boys beating men, was one which presented a theme for the subjoined fragment—copied verbatim :—

* * * *

Bards long shall tell
How his wicket fell,
When two young ladies left the field
Lest they should see their champion yield ;
When the gallant lads of Eton
Feared again they should be beaten ;
When breathless stood each college belle—
'Twas then the R-dcl-ffe's wicket fell.
Where's W-ld-r, W-lk-ns ? where D-pu-s ?
Alas ! these mighty wickets three
Are—as six Kingsmen ought to be !
But who is he whose maimed might
Still for his country dares to fight ?
By that eyebrow's closing wound,
Which the leech in black hath bound—

By that keen, unerring eye,
 By that throat's unceasing cry,
 By that straw-entwisted hat,
 By that last, that mighty bat,—
 If aright these signs I read
 'Tis H-rd-g of Warwick, good at need.

“Hold hard! hold hard!” the H-rd-ng cries.
 “Hold hard! hold hard!” each voice replies,
 And L-sh-ngt-n holds hard, nor tries

In vain to fetch a run.*

You might have heard the strengthy bawl
 From Shooting Fields to College Hall,
 From Poets' Walk's inspiring shade,
 Where Thames soft murmurs through the glade,
 To where Long Chamber hears the raging
 Of —— with his fags engaging.
 E'en to this day the tentsmen all
 Their man young H-rd-ng “Hold-hard” call,
 Look out—come L-sh-ngt-n!

The doughty Hold-hard scours the plain,
 Now blocks—now hits—now runs amain;
 Each limb's at stretch, each nerve on strain,
 Till seven times ten good runs and four
 Stand marked to H-rd-ng's brilliant score.
 'Twas then from his seat the young Lingers among
 A gown-yelad colleger hastily sprung.
 In story 'tis told that he even did dare
 To enter the black-mantled ranks of the fair,
 And to offer an unknown lady a chair!

* Technical; *vide Glossar. Etonens.*

'Tis said that the chair he scarcely could hold,
For his limbs shook with dread, and his heart's blood
ran cold.

'Tis said that he wistfully gazed around ;
He thought as she took it the fair one frown'd !
How this may be I cannot say,
But the Gownsmen were in no spirits that day.

Heard ye that buzz with wonder fraught?
Stares each wild eye—nor stares at nought.
'The mighty H-rd-ng's self is caught !
Up flew the ball from foeman's hand :
In stark amaze the gownsmen stand,
And stare like pig that yields its life
Beneath the sticking butcher's knife !

Nor would my muse refuse to tell
Th' unlucky doom of Fr-man-le—
The V-v-n, no ignoble field—
The R-ch-d's, who to none may yield—
The T-impl-t-n, whose hits could scare
Each leaping lady from her chair.
The G-rd-n who scarce let a bye,
The fagging of the matchless Bl-gh ;
Loud from the tent came H-rd-ng's cry,
And showed the path to victory.
“ Well hit—now run—hold hard—hold hard ! ”
He spoke, and Epsom's schemes were marred.
Some say, in his mind sweet pleasure arose
When he thought how his country had worsted her
foes ;

When he thought on the crape which that night
should be torn

From the bats, now no longer condemned to
mourn.

I cannot tell what his thoughts might be,
I say the tale as 'twas said to me.

First of the greatest the victor sat,
While leant his chin on the mighty bat.
No vulgar wood was the bat of might
That swung in the grasp of H-rd-ng dight;

No vulgar maker's name it wore,
Nor vulgar was the name it bore;

It was a bat full fair to see,
And it drove the balls right lustily:

Without a flaw, without a speck,
Smooth as fair Hebe's ivory neck;

It was withal so light, so neat,
'The H-rd-ng called it—Mrs. * *

'Th' admiring boys took up the name—
Lo! the vast power of heedless fame,
That soon was earnest which at first was fun,
And H-rd-ng's bat and Mrs. * * were one.

O mighty bat! we were not beat,
And Epsom's powers now dread to meet

The thundering whirl of Mrs. * *

O mighty bat! when Eton, reft
Of her great strength, mourns H-rd-ng left,

'Thou still shalt conquer for us, given

A wondrous heir-loom to th' eleven.

While Thames shall lave fair Eton's feet,

While mutton Collegers shall eat;

Till Thames his secret stream reverses ;
Till Westminster beat Eton verses ;
Still at each match, each beauty bright,
From sultry morn to chilly night—
The peerless beauties of the day—
E'en in the wet shall deign to stay,
To see some future "Hold-hard" pat
The flying balls with H-rd-ng's bat !

While Eton had been making itself famous, the rival foundation at Winchester was maintaining a well-deserved popularity, and Harrow School frequently produced an eleven against which neither could make a successful stand when Marylebone was the battle-ground. One of the earliest reliable records of a match between Eton and Harrow is dated August 2, 1805. In this match Lord Byron played for Harrow, but Eton won by an innings and two runs. These school matches commanded much attention, seeing that they had sent forth to the world many accomplished players. Horace Walpole, writing in 1749, says : "I could tell you of Lord Montford's making cricket matches and fetching up persons by express from different parts of England to play a match on Richmond-green."

Although it would appear from the foregoing

extracts and observations that cricket was confined to a small portion of England, the fact of its having taken deep root east, west, and north is well established. Nottingham and Sheffield had become great centres in the early part of the nineteenth century. Norfolk too lifted up its voice in matters appertaining to the game, and Essex likewise put in a claim to be heard ; so also several of the most influential counties contiguous to those freshened by the diurnal visits of the Atlantic wave.

In proportion to this spread of the game and the growing favour with which it was attended, the demand for the materials necessary for its full development increased. Cricket-ball making became a separate vocation from that of the shoemaker, and large bat manufacturers soon deprived the hedge carpenter, the turner, and other hewers of wood, of a considerable share of profitable business done on a small scale. Men of the John Small genus turned their time to capital account ; and if the name of a well-known cricketer was indented on any part of either bat or ball, so much the more was the price and supposed real value enhanced. Then, too, came the tailor, and exercised the mysteries of

his craft in the production of convenient and appropriate costumes; but these varied materially according to circumstances. Hence—

But come, thou genial son of spring—
Whitsuntide! and with thee bring
Cricket, nimble boy and light,
In slippers red and drawers white.

HEDDESFORD.

Here it must be confessed there is nothing to offend the taste, more especially when put in contrast with the dresses of the early part of the eighteenth century or the latter part of the nineteenth, respecting which many of the wearers appear to devote more study to their personal “make-up” than to the game, and hence they often render themselves doubly ridiculous.

It is somewhat remarkable, when considering the popularity of the game in the first quarter of the present century, that no writer of eminence should have deemed it a subject worthy of his pen. Lambert, a celebrated player, expressed his surprise at this; and by the aid of a literary companion, published a “Cricketeer’s Guide.” In an introductory chapter he pleads excuse for appearing before the world as

an author. Thus : “ When we consider the high estimation in which cricket has been held by all ranks of society, it may be considered rather extraordinary that a manual of the description now offered to the public has not before been attempted, especially as other diversions of little importance in a salutary point of view, have not wanted this advantage.”

This elementary treatise on cricket was so far successful that it ran through fifteen editions, and before Lambert went the way of all flesh, John Nyren issued a “ Cricketer’s Guide,” containing full directions for playing this elegant and manly game. Books of scores sprang up with almost every returning season, and occasionally a scientific treatise made its appearance, so that at the present day there is no lack of information respecting any department of cricketing.

The facilities afforded country people over those of the metropolis in the way of ground for practice were very considerable. Few towns or villages were without green spots on which to pitch a wicket. For a population like that of London the accommodation afforded was very limited. Kennington Com-

mon was largely patronized on account of the convenience of position. On this spot of twenty-three acres might frequently be seen double the number of wickets. Some of these, belonging to schools in the neighbourhood, were of the modern cut and finish; others assumed the ruder hedge-stake style of construction, and when wood was not available a pile of caps formed the object of the bowler's attack; and occasionally might be seen the material of which Jacob made a pillow in the hazel bowers at Luz, and when in his deep sleep he saw the wondrous ladder forming a highway from earth to heaven thronged with angelic travellers.

In aristocratic districts a "bit of practice" might be obtained more conveniently. Although wickets were not permitted in the public parks, it was by no means uncommon to give law the go-by. Hence:

Yet though 'tis too rural to come near the mark,
We all herd in one walk, and that nearest the park:
There with ease we may see as we pass by the wicket,
The chimneys of Knightsbridge and footmen at cricket,
SHERIDAN.

The White Conduit Fields were now all but de-

served by cricketers of every grade. Nelson, in his "History of Islington," says :—"The gardens belonging to White Conduit House are laid out in a neat manner, having in the middle a circular basin of water, with boxes around, and decorated with paintings, &c., in which the company sit and take refreshments. Here is also a bowling-green. A neighbouring field was about twenty years back used as a cricket ground by a party of noblemen and gentlemen who had formed a club here for the exercise of that game." In Carrington Bowles' set of prints entitled "Manly Recreations" (published 1788), a view of the ground is given while a match is being played. Although Islington was for a time abandoned as the theatre for cricket, a club, entitled the Albion, reared its head in the early part of the present century; and notwithstanding the vicissitudes attendant upon deaths, removals, and other freaks of time and circumstance, the Islington Albion still exists.

The introduction of round-arm bowling about the year 1803 foreshadowed a new era in the world of cricket. The first recorded notice of it is to be found in the *Sporting Magazine* of July,

1807. Here it is, *ipsissima verba*: "On Monday, the 20th instant, the return grand match between Thirteen of All England and Twenty-three of Kent for 1000 guineas began playing on Penenden Heath, and terminated on Thursday the 23rd in favour of Kent by 27 notches, Kent having got 189 and England 162 runs. This was reckoned the greatest match that had been played in Kent for upwards of twenty years; bets to a very large amount were depending on both sides. The straight-arm bowling, introduced by John Willes, Esq., was generally practised in the game, and fully proved an obstacle against getting runs in comparison to what might have been got by the straight-forward bowling."

Among the great bulk of cricketers the new comer met with a sorry reception. Both Mr. Willes and his offspring were frequently "barred" in the arrangement of a match, and thus for a time they were kept in abeyance. There are persons yet living who remember Mr. Willes playing in a match on Penenden Heath amidst much uproar and confusion from players and spectators, John Crawte being especially noisy on the occa-

sion. Mr. Willes was not the man to be daunted by what he considered silly ejaculations, clumsy cajoleries, or empty threats of personal violence, so on he went until the "ring" was broken in, the stumps uprooted, and the game brought to a dead lock. It took some little time for Mr. Willes to obtain a fair chance for his system; but he lived to see it patronized to an extent fully commensurate with his fondest expectations. Experimental matches on a large scale were had recourse to, chiefly at the suggestion of the Marylebone Club. As a matter of course there was no lack of objectors to the system, which was termed "throwing," and therefore calculated to produce a large crop of broken fingers and straight joints, unless the batsman appeared at his wicket encased like the armadillo. Against such alarms it was argued, that if bowling really did occasionally break shins and knuckles, the first maxim of a cricketer is, "never be afraid of the ball," and that men ought not to permit childish fears to influence them. It took four or five years to supply a moderate amount of bowlers on the new principle, although everybody having any pretence to bowling seemed

to be trying heart and soul to gain a position among the round-arm celebrities. In the year 1830 the "innovator" was generally recognised, and the under-hand delivery tapered down in a few seasons to such small dimensions as to become kinsman to a curiosity. In the present day Mr. Drake occasionally treats those opposed to him with a taste of the prevailing under-hand at the time of the revolution.

The great change in the character of cricket thus brought about led to a very searching examination of the real principles of round-arm bowling, and probably no subject appertaining to the game underwent so much learned discussion. The romantic tales told about Miss Willes served as valuable ingredients for concocting other pretty tales connected with the "round-arm" discovery. Some persons averred that the Kentish yeoman merely resuscitated an exploded idea, while others insisted that, in Sussex, it was known and practised long before John Willes was heard of; but the lamp of reason and the light of truth soon dispelled these prejudices and illusions. The elements of mathematical science which permeated

the new system gave rise to the introduction of mechanical agencies for the purpose of practice-hitting, for it was obvious that the batting was now dragging a slow length along. Hence the catapult of the ancient Romans made its appearance as a bowler. By a very simple process of machinery the ball was propelled with the greatest exactitude as respects both pitch and pace. A plate upon which the ball rested would, by a lateral movement upon a screw, enable the attendant to deliver it either on, or off, at pleasure. Under the plate was another screw to regulate the angle of projection. These improvements upon the old cumbersome machine were effected by Mr. Felix, after an expenditure of much time and reflection. Another instrument, called the balista, about six feet in height, and weighing three-quarters of a cwt., appeared a few years later. The principle of the new comer resembled very closely that of its prototype, and, notwithstanding its comparative lightness, answered all the purposes for which it was constructed.

With the new system also came gauntlets, india-rubber paddings, and accoutrements of lea-

ther, whalebone, cork, and other useful as well as fanciful materials. The famous Law 10 had to be revised, for it stood thus in the year 1828:—"The ball must be bowled (not thrown nor jerked) and delivered underhand with the hand below the elbow. But if the ball be jerked or the arm be extended from the body horizontally, and any part of the back of the hand be uppermost, or the hand extended horizontally when the ball shall be delivered, the umpire shall call 'no ball.'" The new law said: "The ball shall be bowled. If it be thrown or jerked, or if any part of the hand or arm be above the elbow at the time of delivery, the umpire shall call 'no ball.'" For upwards of thirty years after, Law 10 was doomed to undergo the perpetual torture of incision and excision. Four years ago the Marylebone Club held another grave consultation on the eternally perplexing theme, and resolved to reduce the law to the two sentences of which it is at present composed. (See page 118).

Respecting the formation of clubs, much must depend upon situation and other circumstances. The rules drawn up for the governance of Mary-

lebone or the Civil Service would probably but ill adapt themselves for any other club in the whole realm of cricket. A president, treasurer, committee, and secretary, are indispensables. Neither the first nor second of these functionaries need be a cricketer. As the committee are generally selected from the subscription list, both the elements of cricket and business come in contact. But the man of all others is the honorary secretary, on whose shoulders rests too frequently the great burden of management. A paid secretary is merely the agent of the committee, and if he does their bidding his business is at an end. But the honorary secretary is the impersonation of the club itself, and in nine cases out of ten the prosperity or decay of the club is referable to him. He should be well acquainted with cricket theoretically, if he shines not in the practice of the art. At times his temper is put to a severe test, seeing he has much impertinence to brook from puffy and self-important individuals, both in and out of what is called "the profession." He ought also to be a "man of letters," as from him, through the medium of the press, the public are made

acquainted with reliable statements not easily obtained through any other source. In fine, the temporary absence of an efficient honorary secretary to a large club frequently throws everything into disorder, and resembles the epoch when "there was no king in Israel, and every man did that which was right in his own eyes." What the honorary secretary is in the cabinet, the captain is in the field; and here again, "the right man" is essentially needed. It is not necessary that he should be either the best bat or bowler, but he should possess the faculty of a sound discretion. There is a class of men who endeavour to keep others in awe by a species of hectorism and bluster; to stamp and gesticulate with preposterous wildness if things are going wrong. No individual of this class is fit to act as captain; he should display an aptitude for turning the most unfavourable circumstance to the best account, and of "doing all gently." Formerly some gentlemen altogether unconnected with the match, would undertake to captain the respective sides, but this duty is now almost exclusively discharged by one of the team, and as the parties composing it know the

temper and merits of their own men, the selection is generally made with care. Our friends at the antipodes once fell in with a curious customer occupying the captain's post, and they handled him in the following fashion :—

AN IDYL, NOT EXACTLY IDEAL, OF OUR CAPTAIN.

(To be thought out).

Who likes before the match to dine.

Who likes the juice of fruity wine,

Forgetful where to draw the line ?

Our Captain.

Who, never tired, will ever bowl, ?

Who o'er his men keeps no control

(For aught but bowling lacketh soul) ?

Our Captain.

Who starts the bowling with his slows,

And for what reason goodness knows,

Except to put out nose ?

Our Captain.

Who, pipe in mouth, begins to play,

Regardless of example : nay,

Unto the field will pass his clay ?

Our Captain.

Who ought to lead by act and mien ?

Who ought extremes to go between ?

Whose presence should be felt when seen ?

Our Captain.

For he who fills the pride of place,
'Though lacking chiselled classic face,
Should yet reflect a sober grace,

As Captain.

The gambling spirit which had so strongly characterized cricket in its early stages dwindled away in proportion to the advancement of the game itself. Country people, however, would occasionally ornament their placards with huge figures representing sums of money as the stake to be played for. Common sense eventually banished the foolish practice, and the trophy of victory generally limited itself to a first-class treble-seam ball. This was presented to the winners at the festive board, and a song, perhaps the following, wound up the day's affairs :—

No sport or pastime can compare with that which I shall
name :

'Tis good for peasant and for peer, a fine old English game;
It does no harm, it breeds no strife, it hurts no honest
mind,
It thrills with rapture every vein, and leaves no sting be-
hind.

CHORUS.

'Then sing a song to cricket, that fine old English game.

It flushes with the glow of health each manly cheek and
brow,
It bids the slow and sluggish blood in kindlier currents
flow ;
It knits the sinews into strength, and quickens every eye,
It nerves the hand, renews the heart, and bids all sorrow
fly.

Chorus.

Oh ! what a glorious sight is that when in the fresh field
air,
Blue sky above, green earth beneath, all nature calm and
fair,
Its votaries like brothers meet, to test each other's skill,
And win or lose, conclude the game with kindness and
goodwill.

Chorus.

Arrayed in seemly garb they stand upon the verdant
sward,
A sight which *Mitford* might portray, or *Blackwood's*
brawny bard ;
While pleased spectators clustering round, look wondering
on the while,
And lovely eyes are beaming bright and lovelier faces smile.

Chorus.

Erect and graceful and serene, one at the wicket stands,
Grasping the neat compliant bat with strong elastic hands ;
The bowler hails the flying ball, which seems to bound
with life,
And watchful fielders wait around to aid the noble strife.

Chorus.

The contest o'er, the conquerors, and conquered one and
all,
Partake the festive cup unmingled with elements of gall ;
With merry tale and jocund song they speed the hours
away,
Shake hands at parting, and appoint to try some other
day.

Chorus.

When Death at last shall bowl us out, which surely must
be so,
And knock our guarded wickets down by his unfailing blow,
May we give up the game like men prepared for such re-
lease,
Make our accounts all straight and clear, and quit the
world in peace.

Chorus.

A scheme for producing yearly results of individuals and clubs, was promoted about this period, under the designation of "averages," which occupied much attention. According to the mode of construction, some of these average tables were found to be very frequently false guides, and therefore worse than useless. Every cricketer knows that the highest average is not a proper test of merit, unless the average so tabled is confined to one class of matches. No tables, even as at pre-

sent constructed, elaborate as some of them are, give a correct idea either of a man's bowling or batting, relatively considered. Who, for instance, would think of placing the runs of some parish hero against those of first-class players, who rarely appear in matches, unless confronted by the pick of the cricketing community? No one! It is flattering to the vanity of some aspirants to fame to see their names enveloped with huge rows of figures; but, after all, it would be far more praiseworthy to be the possessor of a moderate average obtained from conflicts in which "Greek meets Greek." The whole system of averages ought to be constructed upon some revised plan before its fundamental principles can be satisfactorily worked out.

FOURTH PERIOD.

They boated and they cricketed.—TENNYSON.

Cricket in the reigns of Elizabeth, Anne, and Victoria—List of Eton and Harrow annual matches at Lord's from commencement—Gentlemen and Players' matches at Lord's from 1830—University matches—Origin of I Zingari—All England Eleven—United All England—Re-establishment of Surrey County Club—The first trip to Australia (1861)—Second trip (1864)—Drawn matches—Large scores, cause of—Visit of Aborigines from Australia—Apostrophe to cricket.

CHRONOLOGICALLY considered, cricket claims for its three most remarkable eras the reigns of three British queens. Little if any doubt now remains,—whatever may have been its descent,—that the infant Hercules was cradled and christened when Elizabeth swayed the sceptre. How it looked in swaddling bands neither poet nor painter has afforded the present generation an opportunity of

judging. Hence imagination is compelled to fill up the void which even a faint outline would have supplied. With Anne of Denmark more daylight arrives,—a few glimpses of the growth of a century are afforded by scraps of written facts, and rude pictorial representations. These bear testimony to the birth of double wicket, although they leave the inquirer in as much doubt and perplexity as before respecting its organization and laws. On the advent of Victoria to the throne of a kingdom on which the sun never sets, cricket was shedding so strong a light that it was seen by the dwellers in the remotest corners of the British Isles, and was transmitted to other regions and countries by the English traveller. Probably the world never saw a finer band of cricketers on a small scale than when Victoria mounted the throne. Some persons of the present day maintain that we are losing the fibre of which the men of that time were composed ; but this is a fallacy. They say “there were giants in those days ;” the reason why they appeared so was, that those around them were comparative dwarfs. The man must be great indeed whose head could, in the present day, appear above the

crowd of cultivated cricketers. Which way soever the eye turns in the months of spring and summer it falls upon “the cricketers’ tent,” in districts favourable to its being pitched. The great advantage which the play-ground affords has contributed in no small degree towards raising the game of cricket, not only to one of skill and science, but has conferred such general benefits on the whole community as justly to entitle it to the rank of “an institution.”

Among the public schools which of late years have striven hard for the foremost position must be placed Eton and Harrow. There was a time when Winchester could beat both, but that appears now to have passed away altogether. The earliest recorded match between Eton and Harrow was in 1805. Then came a rest of thirteen years. The following table represents the forty-two matches played from the commencement up to last year, from which it will be seen that Harrow won twenty, Eton nineteen, and four were drawn:—

1805. Eton won by 1 innings and 2 runs.

1818. Harrow won by 13 runs.

1822. Harrow won by 87 runs.

1823. Eton won by one innings and 33 runs.

- 1824. Eton won by nine wickets.
- 1825. Eton won by seven wickets.
- 1827. Eton won by six wickets.
- 1828. Eton won by six wickets.
- 1832. Eton won by one innings and 156 runs.
- 1833. Harrow won by eight wickets.
- 1834. Harrow won by 13 runs.
- 1835. Eton won by 165 runs.
- 1836. Harrow won by nine wickets.
- 1837. Eton won by eight wickets.
- 1838. Eton won by one innings and 30 runs.
- 1839. Eton won by eight wickets.
- 1840. Eton won by 31 runs.
- 1841. Eton won by one innings and 175 runs.
- 1842. Harrow won by 65 runs.
- 1843. Harrow won by 20 runs.
- 1844. Eton won by one innings and 69 runs.
- 1845. Eton won by one innings and 174 runs.
- 1846. Eton won by one innings and 135 runs.
- 1847. Eton won by nine wickets.
- 1848. Harrow won by 41 runs.
- 1849. Harrow won by 77 runs.
- 1850. Eton won by seven wickets.
- 1851. Harrow won by eight wickets.

- 1852. Harrow won by 71 runs.
- 1853. Harrow won by three wickets.
- 1854. Harrow won by 98 runs.
- 1855. Harrow won by one innings and 66 runs.
- 1857. Harrow won by ten wickets.
- 1858. Harrow won by one innings and 7 runs.
- 1859. Harrow won by one innings and 48 runs.
- 1860. Drawn.
- 1861. Drawn.
- 1862. Eton won by 54 runs.
- 1863. Drawn.
- 1864. Harrow won by one innings and 67 runs.
- 1865. Harrow won by one innings and 51 runs.
- 1866. Harrow won by one innings and 136 runs.
- 1867. Drawn.

In the year 1806, the Gentlemen first arrayed themselves against the Players at Lord's. On that occasion the Gentlemen won their match by an innings and fourteen runs. From that period up to the present—making allowance for an interregnum of thirteen years between the first and second match—every endeavour has been made to keep the public alive to its interest, and at times

some very curious experiments were resorted to for the purpose. It will be sufficient for the object aimed at in this work to give a summary of the matches played since 1830, with their respective dates :—

DATE.	SIDES.	1st inn.	2nd inn.	Tot.
1830, June 14 ...	Players	46	— —	46
	10 Gentlemen...	17	— —	17
(with Lillywhite and Pilch)				

Match given up.

1831, July 25 ...	Gentlemen	139	36 —	175
	Players	120	56 —	176

Players won by five wickets.

1832, Aug. 27 ...	Gentlemen	57	60 —	117
	Players	151	— —	151

Players won by one innings and 34 runs. Gentlemen defended wickets 22 in. by 6 in. Players 27 in. by 8 in.

1833, July 8 ...	Gentlemen	42	76 —	118
	Players	106	13 —	119

Players won by nine wickets.

1834, Aug. 4 ...	Gentlemen	54	93 —	147
	Players	168	— —	168

Players won by one innings and 29 runs.

DATE.	SIDES.	1st inn.	2nd inn.	Tot.
1835, July 20 ...	Gentlemen.....	158	72 —	230
	(with Redgate and Cobbett)			
	Players	135	96 —	231
	Players won by six wickets.			
1836, July 25 ...	18 Gentlemen...	115	96 —	211
	11 Players	77	99 —	176
	Gentlemen won by 55 runs.			
1837, July 3 ...	Gentlemen.....	54	35 —	89
	Players	99	— —	—
	Players won by an innings and 10 runs.			
The Gentlemen's wickets were 27 in. by 8; the Players 36 in. by 12 in. This was called the Barn-Door Match, or "Ward's Folly."				
1837, July 17 ...	16 Gentlemen...	74	42 —	116
	Players	154	— —	154
	(Second Match.)			
	Players won by 38 runs.			
1838, July 3 ...	Gentlemen.....	86	109 —	195
	(with Pilch, Cobbett, and Wenman.)			
	Players	104	131 —	235
	Players won by 40 runs.			

DATE.	SIDES.	1st inn.	2nd inn.	Tot.
1839, July 29 ...	Gentlemen	86	71 —	157
	Players	235	— —	235
Drawn in favour of Players. The Gentlemen had six wickets to fall in their second innings.				
1840, July 29 ...	Gentlemen	39	120 —	159
	Players	149	11 —	160
Players won by nine wickets.				
1841, July 12 ...	Gentlemen	78	109 —	187
	Players	64	121 —	188
Players won by two wickets.				
1842, July 25 ...	Gentlemen	78	206 —	284
	Players	122	67 —	189
Gentlemen won by 95 runs.				
1843, July 17 ...	Players	137	99 —	236
	Gentlemen	256	— —	256
Gentlemen won by one innings and 20 runs.				
1844, July 29 ...	Players	130	141 —	271
	Gentlemen	128	105 —	233
Players won by 38 runs.				
1845, July 21 ...	Players	127	149 —	276
	Gentlemen	94	115 —	209
Players won by 67 runs.				

DATE.	SIDES.	1st inn.	2nd inn.	Tot.
1846, July 20 ...	Players	85	145	— 230
	Gentlemen.....	105	126	— 231

Gentlemen won by one wicket.

1847, July 19 ...	Players	126	148	— 274
	Gentlemen.....	79	48	— 127

Players won by 147 runs.

1848, Aug. 6 ...	Gentlemen.....	31	152	— 183
	Players	79	71	— 150

Gentlemen won by 33 runs.

1849, July 23 ...	Gentlemen.....	192	—	— 192
	Players	65	87	— 152

Gentlemen won by one innings and 40 runs.

1850, July 22 ...	Players	148	—	— 148
	Gentlemen.....	42	58	— 100

Players won by one innings and 48 runs.

1851, July 23 ...	Gentlemen.....	65	128	— 193
	Players	207	—	— 207

Players won by one innings and 14 runs.

1851, July 21 ...	Players	229	—	— 229
(Return)	Gentlemen.....	100	107	— 207

Players won by one innings and 22 runs.

DATE.	SIDES.	1st inn.	2nd inn.	Tot.
1852, July 19 ...	Gentlemen	122	187	— 309
	Players	220	90	— 310
	Players won by five wickets.			
1853, July 18 ...	Gentlemen	134	37	— 171
	Players	42	69	— 111
	Gentlemen won by 60 runs.			
1854, July 17 ...	Gentlemen	95	71	— 166
	Players	148	20	— 168
	Players won by nine wickets.			
1855, July 23 ...	Gentlemen	226	43	— 269
	Players	222	49	— 271
	Players won by seven wickets.			
1856, July 21 ...	Gentlemen	50	133	— 183
	Players	114	70	— 184
	Players won by two wickets.			
1857, July 13 ...	Players	199	122	— 321
	Gentlemen	194	114	— 308
	Players won by 13 runs.			
1858, July 19 ...	Players	115	229	— 343
	Gentlemen	52	77	— 129
	Players won by 285 runs.			

DATE.	SIDES.	1st inn.	2nd inn.	Tot.
1859, July 18 ...	Players	226	167	— 393
	Gentlemen	164	60	— 224

Players won by 169 runs.

1860, July 9 ...	Players	394	—	— 394
	Gentlemen	137	76	— 213

Players won by an innings and 181 runs.

1861, July 1 ...	Players	246	—	— 246
	Gentlemen	70	116	— 186

Players won by an innings and 60 runs.

1862, July 14 ...	Players	110	246	— 356
	(Under 30 years of age.)			
	Gentlemen (do.)	130	69	— 199

Players won by 157 runs.

1863, July 10 ...	Players	231	9	— 240
	Gentlemen	113	126	— 239

Players won by eight wickets.

1864, June 27 ...	Players	187	—	— 187
	Gentlemen.....	60	59	— 119

Players won by an innings and 68 runs.

1865, July 10 ...	Players	132	140	— 272
	Gentlemen	198	77	— 275

Gentlemen won by eight wickets.

DATE.	SIDES.	1st inn.	2nd inn.	Tot.
1866, July	... Players	116	253	— 369
	Gentlemen	136	195	— 331

Players won by 38 runs.

1867, July 8	... Players	79	61	— 140
	Gentlemen	87	55	— 142

Gentlemen won by eight wickets.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY MATCHES.

The first record of a match at Lord's is in the year 1827, which was not played out, owing to the unpropitious state of the weather. In 1829, a meeting took place at Oxford, when the Oxonians won the match by 115 runs. Then followed an interregnum till 1836, when, at Lord's, Oxford won by 121 runs. In 1838 Oxford won by 98 runs. Then came a change in favour of Cambridge, who won six matches in succession. In 1846 Oxford won by three wickets. The next year placed Cambridge on the winning list by 138 runs. In 1848 Oxford won by 23 runs (match played at Oxford). In 1849 Cambridge won by three wickets, and in the succeeding year (at Oxford),

the Oxford eleven won by 127 runs. From that time to the present, the famous University matches have been played at Lord's :—

1851. Cambridge won by an innings and 4 runs.

1852. Oxford won by an innings and 77 runs.

1853. Oxford won by an innings and 19 runs.

1854. Oxford won by an innings and 8 runs.

1855. Oxford won by three wickets.

1856. Cambridge won by three wickets.

1857. Oxford won by 81 runs.

1858. Oxford won by an innings and 38 runs.

1859. Cambridge won by 28 runs.

1860. Cambridge won by three wickets.

1861. Cambridge won by 133 runs.

1862. Cambridge won by eight wickets.

1863. Oxford won by eight wickets.

1864. Oxford won by four wickets.

1865. Oxford won by 114 runs.

1866. Oxford won by 12 runs.

1867. Cambridge won by five wickets.

In July, 1845, it was resolved at a meeting where Nobody was Chairman, “that a club be founded for mutual cricket accommodation, which

shall have the name and style of I Zingari.” The four corner-stones were the Honourables Frederick and Spencer Ponsonby, Mr. J. L. Baldwin, and Mr. R. P. Long. This club has not only extended itself beyond all expectation, but it embodies in its membership some of the finest amateur players in the world.

About the same period the All England Eleven first went on their migratory tour. Whatever may be said against the system adopted by them of playing at great odds, and thereby depriving the game of all real interest, certain is it that the enterprise has been productive of much good. Thousands of persons owe their love to the game from the very circumstance of having it first brought to their doors by means of William Clarke, of Nottingham, and his party. This movement laid the foundation of the order called “professionals.” Nearly six months of the year, viz., from April to October, are usually absorbed by the All England Eleven in their journeyings through the island and elsewhere. A second team of peripatetics, entitled the “United All England” was formed a few years later, and in the year 1857

these two bands of champions met at Lord's to play for the benefit of the "Cricketers' Fund." This became an annual affair at Marylebone for nine years uninterruptedly. It was afterwards transferred to Manchester. The re-establishment of the Surrey County Club, at the Oval, in 1845, gave a great impetus to cricket. A few members of the Montpelier Club, driven from their Walworth quarters, soon gathered, from their old companions and others, a goodly array to start with. The Oval rapidly extended its fame, and became in a very few years the centre to which the rising talent of the county directed itself. From the almost unexampled patronage with which it was favoured during its foundation stage, and progressive enlargements, it asserted and has hitherto maintained its claim to a foremost position in the *rôle* of County Clubs.

To pursue the rise and progress of clubs, great and small, from the period here arrived at, down to the present time, would defeat the purposes of this book and the intention of its author. It is not too much to say that any parish in England now without a cricket club would be considered as

great an anomaly as to be without a church ; and any school of repute without its cricket-ground, would be regarded as deficient of a great essential to a proper education.

Not only is the game highly patronized in England, but also on the American continent ; the chieftains of both countries have been engaged in the tug of war. So, too, in more distant regions of the world. On the 18th of October, 1861, twelve players of note set out for Australia, and there, under a temperature varying from 80° to 120°, played thirteen matches, to the great delight and astonishment of the colonists. The promoter reaped a golden harvest from the speculation, and the players returned to England in May, 1862, safe and sound, and laden with spoil. Three years later, another eleven went out, and returned, like the first, with abundant proofs of the wealth of the country and the generosity of its inhabitants.

The spread of the game everywhere brings with it a heavy demand upon the professional market, and in fact it often happens that men cannot be had either for “love or money.” The undue pres-

sure of business also frequently results in its being done badly. Matches are made without proper consideration, and hence they are left in a most unsatisfactory condition. Drawn matches, now recorded, are nearly in the same ratio with completed ones. This is not cricket. Formerly, the parties to a match were on the ground in the morning of the appointed day, and to work they went, as if determined to ascertain "who's who," whereas in these days it often happens that the summer sun is allowed to pass the meridian before any attempt at play is commenced. Moreover, the best hours of play are broken into for the sake of a regular sit-down dinner, which may, and does, serve the purpose of the licensed victualler, in order to get rid of stale beer and flavourless bakemeats. Now it is well known that no man, without the digestion of an ostrich, can see to play a good ball after a dinner of veal pie, currant tart, lobster salad, beer, and the old boot-top sherry. Cricketers who play to win hold aloof from such repasts, waiting till the fight is over, when they can fall to with a glorious appetite.

On the subject of large scores much speculation

is afloat. From 150 to 200 runs for an individual excites no great surprise ; but the question asked is, how this comes to pass. It is not that the bowling is weaker now, or the batting more scientific, than in the days alluded to in the opening of this “Fourth Period,” but that the grounds, generally speaking, are in better order. What with levellers, mowing machines, and ten-ton rollers, every really good ground is as level as a billiard table. “Shooters and twisters” are rare, and the bowler seldom gets a fluke in his favour. All this is matter of congratulation. The fewer the chances of accident, the more skill and science will be imported into the game, and the more healthy will be the moral and physical results. It is vain to pretend to make a ground that is constitutionally unsuited for the wear and tear of cricket. Many attempts have been made,—only to fail. You may enclose rotten material in a very substantial-looking edifice ; you may envelop consumption with the surface of health, but as time wears on, and the stress is applied, the hidden ill will be sure to reveal itself.

The turf at Lord’s has been hard-worked ever

since the year 1814; in fact it was used for cricketing purposes before its removal to Marylebone. This shows the amount of endurance the right stuff is capable of. The turf recently laid down for practice purposes is of a very different character.

Among the most remarkable results attendant upon the cultivation and spread of cricket, is the visit this year of twelve aborigines from the antipodes, to play against English, Irish, and Scotch clubs. Heaven be praised that they will not bring with them Lord Macaulay's New Zealander who is to sketch the last arch of London Bridge!

CRICKET, HERE'S TO THEE.

If noble sports deserve our songs,
Then, Cricket, here's to thee!
Whose birth to British land belongs,
And breathes its liberty.
Its name has reached the wide world round,
Its players dauntless are;
The bat and ball and stumps are found,
'Neath every rising star.
Then fill, and chorus clear and strong,
For this the toast shall be:
If noble sports deserve a song,
Then, Cricket! here's to thee!

LAWS OF THE GAME, WITH NOTES.

To the enlightened and practical cricketer these notes are not immediately directed, but to the number of young players who appear with each returning spring—

Thick as the motes that twinkle in the sun.

These know a little about cricket, but sometimes so little of the principles and laws upon which the game is governed, that their disputations assume a disagreeable form. Wrangling is not reasoning. The object aimed at in these notes is to explain as clearly as possible matters upon which doubts have arisen, by citing cases where needed, for the guidance of young umpires and others who may fall in with similar cases. The whole code of laws might be reconstructed to advantage, as nowadays there is very much in cricket for which the laws afford neither direction nor control. Hence custom takes the place of law, and as the custom of one place differs materially from that of another, confusion is the result.

THE BALL

1. Must not weigh less than five ounces and a half, nor more than five ounces and three-quarters. It must measure not less than nine inches, nor more than nine inches and one-quarter in circumference. At the beginning of each innings either party may call for a new ball.

In order to bring a ball within the scope defined, the process of making it involves great care and nicety. Most of the match balls when new are somewhat “cheeked.” The object of this is to counteract the change of shape which it soon assumes after being used, as the seams are sure to rise. The inventor of the treble-seamed ball, as now used at Lord’s, was one John Small, a shoemaker of Petersfield, in Hampshire, who acquired, as he deserved, a very handsome competence for his skill and ingenuity. Over his shop door was the following characteristic board :

John Small, make bat and ball,
Pitch a wicket, play at cricket,
With any man in England.

All first-class makers stamp their names as a guarantee of quality and correctness, and it rarely happens that a new ball is needed during a match,

although the law allows either party to call for one at the commencement of each innings. The foundation of these balls is a cube of cork, about which is wound a material of wool or worsted, with pieces of leather so applied as by degrees to bring it into a spherical shape. As this inner portion proceeds to completion it undergoes a frequent and minute examination, as the contents of the case are accurately known. One maker alone (R. Dark) consumes annually more than a ton and a half of worsted, and nearly 500 cow or ox hides, and employs upon an average 35 workmen throughout the year. There are other balls than those made of leather, which have been introduced for the sake of economy in practice, such as india-rubber, gutta-percha, &c.; but the great objection to one and all is the "sting" which they not unfrequently impart by way of retribution to a hard hit.

THE BAT

2. Must not exceed four inches and one quarter in the widest part; it must not be more than thirty-eight inches in length.

In the primitive stages of cricket, there was neither limitation to length nor stipulation as to

width of the bat. As the game progressed, so the instruments necessary for its development were relatively altered and improved. In some old pictures hung up in the Pavilion at Lord's, the bat is of great length, and curved at the lower extremity. The changed character of the bowling suggested a pod or blade of a different shape. As time rolled on, the question of width forced itself upon the attention of the authorities, and at length the above dimensions were fixed upon. There was not, however, any restriction as to the length of the pod, any more than to the weight of the bat itself, which varies from about two pounds to two and a quarter. Willow is the material of which it is made, and no ordinary amount of judgment is brought to bear upon the handle, which varies materially in its composition and manufacture. Hence there is the plain match bat, the single and treble whalebone, the repercussive, and the cane-handle. The price of these varies in proportion to material and finish. There is a bat in the Pavilion at Lord's weighing four pounds two ounces, which once belonged to the Earl of Winchelsea, and was used by the noble earl in many an important

match of his time. When the Pavilion was destroyed by fire, in the year 1825, there were several bats of the antique character, proper notions of which can now only be formed from pictorial representations.

THE STUMPS

3. Must be three in number, twenty-seven inches out of the ground, the bails being eight inches in length, the stumps of equal and of sufficient thickness to prevent the ball from passing through.

The stumps, in their complete form, constitute what is termed a wicket. In the incipient stages of cricket (about 1700), it is stated in the MS. of an old cricketer that the stumps were but two in number, and were one foot high and two feet wide. Several changes of dimension took place before the first portion of the eighteenth century; but in 1775 a very important alteration was made by the addition of a third stump, and reducing the breadth of the wicket to six inches, and heightening it to twenty-two inches. In 1798 the stumps were further heightened by two inches, and the wicket was widened another inch. In 1818 the

standard was twenty-seven inches by eight, and a second bail was introduced, so that the wicket of the period in question was identical with that of the present day. No mention is made of the material. The stumps for many years used at Lord's were of lancewood. Mahogany has been tried; but those almost universally adopted are made of ash, on account of their strength and toughness. Various plans have been adopted for perfecting a wicket entire. Among many ingenious contrivances for effecting this was one introduced by Messrs. Fuller and Margett. This wicket consists of an oblong metal plate, fixed in the ground by two long spikes, and fitted with three sunk collars of vulcanized India-rubber, which receive the ends of the stumps. Each stump is held in position by the collars, and when struck down can be replaced in much less time than is ordinarily consumed, and without disturbing the ground. The entire wicket can be fixed in two minutes. Another invention, called the "Self-acting regulation wicket," or "Stanley's patent," has also made its appearance. This is so constructed that, after yielding to the blow of a ball, it instantly regains

its original position, so that when once pitched for a match, or for practice, it requires no further attention, saving and except for the replacement of bails. The stumps are acted upon by a spiral spring.

THE BOWLING CREASE

4. Must be in a line with the stumps; six feet eight inches in length, the stumps in the centre, with a return crease at each end towards the bowler at right angles.

This is “the measured tread” on which so much depends,—often the line of vexation to the bowler, and of much close watching on the part of the umpire. It is a “no balling” station, and a point to which the attention of the looker-on is turned with especial interest. The object of the “return crease” is to prevent the bowler from indulging in erratic distances from the wicket in delivering the ball. Very few umpires have much respect for the science of trigonometry, and consequently their right angles are often very obtuse, and not unfrequently acute. It is, nevertheless, their duty to acquire sufficient knowledge of angles to prevent any unfair confusion to the batsman by allowing

such as would throw him off his given guard, which is generally calculated from the spot at which the bowler is known to deliver. It does happen that bowlers of a somewhat elastic composition, appear to overstep the mark, when in reality such is not the case, and for this they have sometimes to pay an unjust penalty, for all umpires are not equally quick-sighted.

Æquam memento rebus in arduis
Servare pedem.

“In the arduous task of bowling preserve the measured tread.”

THE POPPING CREASE.

5. Must be four feet from the wicket, and parallel to it; unlimited in length, but not shorter than the bowling crease.

Our early legislators decreed that the “popping crease” should be cut exactly three feet ten inches from the wicket. In the year 1828 two inches were added, thus extending the batsman’s hitting area to the present size. The practice of cutting the creases was kept up at Marylebone till within the last five years, much to the detriment of the

ground itself, as it tended to destroy the fibre of the turf, already in a decaying state. The plan now adopted almost everywhere is to set out the wicket by a wooden frame, of the exact dimensions required by the statute, and then to describe the crease by a white line outside the frame. This can be re-whitened when soft weather has obliterated it. In the very early stages of cricket the popping crease was altogether unknown, as a large hole was dug out between the two stumps which constituted the wicket, and into this hole the butt end of the bat had to be plunged, indicating a run effectually made. As many severe injuries arose from the wicket-keeper's hand coming in contact with the striker's bat, a popping crease suggested itself, and its adoption followed. Although the term "unlimited," as applied to the popping crease, is as intelligible as language can convey its meaning, a case is recorded of a man being given out because he ran round his ground. The umpire was "taken off," but the match was lost owing to this blunder.

WICKETS

6. Must be pitched opposite to each other by the umpires, at the distance of twenty-two yards.

Like the laws of the Medes and Persians, No. 6 altereth not. Why twenty-two yards were originally resolved upon as the limits of distance, is not more mysterious than the appointment of eleven persons necessary for playing the game. Imagination has taken very wild flights respecting this subject. Although the law in question makes no mention of the choice of pitching, custom awards the privilege to the parties leaving home. The wickets must be set up within thirty yards of a centre that has been selected by the resident players. If one or more matches be contested on the same ground, then it devolves on the umpires to select a spot equally advantageous to both parties. In case of a challenge it is usual for the challenged to have the choice of playing the first match out, or at home.

7. It shall not be lawful for either party during a match, without the consent of the other, to alter the ground by rolling, watering, covering, mow-

ing, or beating, except at the commencement of each innings, when the ground may be swept and rolled at the request of either party ; such request to be made to one of the umpires within one minute after the conclusion of the former innings. This rule is not meant to prevent the striker from beating the ground with his bat near to the spot where he stands during the innings, nor to prevent the bowler from filling up holes with sawdust, &c. when the ground shall be wet.

When cricket was in its infancy, or at least before it shadowed forth the stalwart proportions of the present age, no such law as the above was necessary. The bowling was simple in character, and the danger appertaining thereto was nothing in comparison with that which accompanies the speed of many a round-arm celebrity at this day. Any excrescence or undulation in that part of the playing ground on which the ball is most likely to pitch is fraught with great danger, while it tends also to baffle the best directed energies of all concerned in the match. Every precaution ought to be taken to prevent accidents arising from hard and uneven surfaces. The scythe, roller, hydrants, and such like instruments, should be brought into

service several days before a match is attempted. In extreme cases the refusal of a request generally deemed necessary, would subject an umpire to the question of fitness for an equity judge, which office for the time being he actually holds. On the other hand, there would be an evil in allowing certain batsmen to indulge the practice of making holes in the ground for a footing. This had grown to such an inconvenient extent a few years ago, that the Marylebone Club instructed their umpires to interfere and check the practice. The evil, however, still exists in some quarters. Sawdust has been used for nearly a century. When Rule 7 was first introduced, the parties were compelled to apply for the roller and broom within one minute of going in. This short notice was repealed in 1859, and the law enlarged to its present dimensions.

8. After rain the wickets may be changed with the consent of both parties.

Rarely, indeed, does it occur now-a-days to meet with men who offer any impediments to so rational a proposition. But in past times when heavy sums were dependent upon the issue of a

match, matters assumed shapes as ugly as corresponding circumstances. Umpires frequently "stood in." Such is not the case now, and these functionaries have merely an eye to a fair and honourable competition, although some perchance may have strong predilections, which is by no means unnatural. Matches have been pushed so far that batsmen have been half blinded by the mud spots they themselves have scattered about. A match was played a year ago at Harrow which continued with frequent interruptions during three days. As a part of the field was covered with water, fresh wickets were pitched on the third day, and this in the middle of an innings.

THE BOWLER

9. Shall deliver the ball within one foot on the ground behind the bowling crease, and within the return crease, and shall bowl four balls before he change wickets, which he shall be permitted to do once only in the same innings.

In essence, this law is coeval with the game itself, and the form of expression varies even now very slightly from the first code in which it

appeared. Its common sense character may, to a great extent, account for the needlessness of change. In spite, however, of clear expression, an umpire in a very important match not more than five years ago, called "no ball" because the bowler delivered it with *both* feet *behind* the bowling crease. Much disagreement arose in consequence. Certain *savans* present declared in favour of the umpire's decree, while others as strictly protested against the stupidity of the same. A remedy was found in cashiering the umpire for evermore. Although some clubs insist upon bowling more than four balls to the over, the M.C.C. do not perceive any necessity for such a departure from a time-honoured edict. Some contend for five balls, being more convenient as a submultiple of ten, and thereby affording greater facilities of gathering up the analysis from a score-sheet; but if the whim of every theorist were to be consulted, there is no telling what figure to hit upon. The bowler, on a blistering summer day finds four balls quite enough. The permission to change wickets once only in the same innings is intended to operate as a check to the wiles of a bowler when the match is running

close. Were not some wholesome restraint at hand a bowler who had taken the measure of his opponent might, and doubtlessly would, press unduly upon him. "Once only."

10. The ball must be bowled. If thrown or jerked, the umpire shall call "No ball."

Until the year 1864 this law was the fruitful theme for strife and disputation, to say nothing of the positive ill-will which was engendered in consequence of laxity on the one hand, and rigid enforcement on the other. The task of dispensing the law was often found to be surrounded with difficulties which overtaxed the ingenuity and acuteness of the most reliable umpires. What was regarded as a throw or jerk by one pair of eyes, appeared quite a different thing to another set of visual organs. Since 1827 Law 10 has undergone many and withal extraordinary changes. The introduction of round-arm bowling quite upset pre-existing forms. Of course, very strong objections were raised against Mr. Willes's style, and, as elsewhere observed, several great trial matches took place very soon after. Umpires were commissioned

to watch with a keen eye the elevation of the arm, but notwithstanding their vigilance, it rose and rose until it reached "the swing of glory." From that period till recently the Marylebone legislators found themselves unequal to the subject of dispute. Now, all restriction as to the height of hand or arm is removed, and men may legally do what before they defiantly did—viz., bowl as high as they choose. Whether the alteration is an advantage to cricket is another question, but the partial enforcement of the law as it previously stood, and the disagreements which were continually resulting therefrom, rendered almost any change an advantage.

11. He may require the striker at the wicket from which he is bowling to stand on that side of it which he may direct.

This formed one of the early canons, and it does not appear to have been disturbed to any appreciable extent. It is one purely of convenience to the bowler, and would give him a wondrous advantage if not in some way kept in wholesome check. Moreover, a batsman might not feel himself very

well pleased at being "required" first to this side and anon to that, according to the caprice of a bowler. The only difference between the original and the present law exists in the word "order" and "require." The former certainly wears a far more imperative aspect than the latter. What the effect of a refusal on the part of an obstinate batsman might lead to is not pointed out. In all probability the umpire's services would be called into action.

12. If the bowler shall toss the ball over the striker's head, or bowl it so wide that in the opinion of the umpire it shall not be fairly within the reach of the batsman, he shall adjudge one run to the parties receiving the innings, either with or without an appeal, which shall be put down to the score of wide balls; such balls shall not be reckoned as one of the four balls; but if the batsman shall by any means bring himself within reach of the ball, the run shall not be adjudged.

Elsewhere, the question of what is a wide ball forms the subject-matter of a note; and here, too, it forces itself prominently forward. A somewhat curious incident relating to a wide ball took place

two years since at the Oval. Mr. E. M. Grace bowled a ball by no means of the ordinary kind, for it culminated nearly twenty feet, and dropt at an angle altogether unlooked for by the batsman, who, however, drove the awkward visitor to leg, and scored two runs. The dose was repeated, but Jupp turned sulky, and did not attempt to play it; then came a third, and being again disregarded, the wicket was hit. The umpire declared in favour of the bowling, but the lookers-on hissed, and denounced it as unfair and old-womanish. Here it may not be amiss to ask why a ball passing from ten to twenty feet over the head of a batsman should be called "wide?" Mr. William Denison frequently urged the M.C.C. to a definition of a wide ball, but he did not live to witness one to his satisfaction. The first mention of "wides" on the score sheet appears to be in a match at Brighton between Kent and Sussex. Previous to this they were lumped with byes.

13. If the bowler deliver a "No ball," or a "Wide ball," the striker shall be allowed as many runs as he can get, and he shall not be put out, except by running out. In the event of no run being

obtained by any other means, then one run shall be added to the score of "No balls," or "Wide balls," as the case may be. All runs obtained for "Wide balls" to be scored to "Wide balls." The names of the bowlers who bowl "Wide balls," or "No balls," shall be placed on the score, to show the parties by whom either score is made. If the ball shall first touch any part of striker's dress or person (except his hands) the umpire shall call "Leg-bye."

First comes the inquiry, what is to be understood by a "wide ball?" Here often great confusion prevails, as the matter is totally in the hands, or rather brain, of the umpire, and there are as many opinions respecting a wide ball as there are individuals selected to determine thereupon. The prevailing definition of a wide ball is, one bowled beyond the reach of the striker, supposing him to make a reasonable effort to hit it. But then it is argued that there is a very material variation in the reach of batsmen when extended to the utmost dimensions, so that the same kind of ball may be within and without reach, according to the physical condition of the striker. From the vagueness of the rule much dissatisfaction pre-

vails. It frequently occurs that some inexperienced administrator of the law commits himself by calling "wide" after the ball has been hit, simply because it was not pitched straight. It has been determined that a batsman may be caught from a ball thus wrongly called. Surely, something more satisfactory and definite ought to prevail.

In a recent match at Birmingham a "no ball" was called, which the batsman hit, and was caught at random, but of course, not out. In summing-up the analysis, the "over" was denominated a maiden. The question arose, whether an over from which even a "no ball" was scored could be so accounted. One umpire said it could, while the other as firmly repudiated it. In order to carry out the injunctions of this law fully, every scorer should be furnished with a sheet properly prepared for the purpose. Some twenty years ago Mr. Roby, a schoolmaster, devised a system of scoring somewhat elaborate in style when compared to the primitive sheets adopted until recently at Lord's. Mr. Roby's sheet, when properly filled in, is a complete reflex of the match itself. It might not here be amiss to suggest a change in the preposition

“by ” for “from ” in this law, as the bowler’s adversaries—not they—are the parties who score.

Whether one or more runs result from one and the same wide or no ball, they must be recorded in their respective columns on the score-sheet. Formerly but one run was scored for a wide or no ball, and at this day some bowlers complain that they should be visited in the score-sheet with the punishment due to other people’s transgressions.

The calling of a “leg-bye ” is usually performed by the umpire putting his hand to his leg, or lifting the leg up. This run has not been acknowledged till within the last twenty years. A suggestion was made by Mr. Denison, in the year 1845, to particularize runs obtained off the padded legs from those which went more directly to the long-stop. At first he was pooh-poohed, but at length his reasoning prevailed, and in 1850 it formed part of the present law.

14. At the beginning of each innings the umpire shall call “Play.” From that time to the end of each innings no trial ball shall be allowed to any bowler.

Any explanatory remarks upon such a law as

this may at first sight appear altogether superfluous. Of late years, however, the practice has extended itself of trial balling. The framers of No. 14 supposed—and naturally so—that the bowlers came to a match fully prepared for business, and if not, the preliminary practice which almost invariably attends a match would suffice. About fifty years ago two trial balls were permitted, but for the last quarter of a century at least, the practice was disallowed. Some persons, however, maintain that the prohibition extended only to bowling at the wicket, and that a trial ball might be allowed, if bowled at the side. Nothing looks more unsightly than side-wicket bowling while the match is in progress. Moreover, it is unfair to the batsman, and it is but scant justice—if justice at all—merely to witness the character of the change bowling without being allowed to try what line of defence may be found best adapted to grapple with it. One of two things is demanded, repeal the clause or enforce it.

THE STRIKER II OUT

15. If either of the bails be bowled off, or if a stump be bowled out of the ground.

Clear as if written with a sunbeam. Cases have, however, occurred, of which the promoters of the law never dreamt. The natural inference was, if the stumps were struck, the bails would fall. A few years since, at a very important match, the wicket was so struck that one of the bails flew from the socket of the stump into the air and fell back again into its place. Now there could be no mistake about the removal of the bail, but the striker was declared not out. A curious case also happened at Brighton not very long ago. The ball wedged itself between the stumps without causing the bails to fall! This has been denied as one of the impossibles at cricket; but "facts are stubborn things."

16. Or, if the ball from the stroke of the bat or hand, but not the wrist, be held before it touch the ground, although it be hugged to the body of the catcher.

Some persons regard fielding of the "hugged"

character as clumsy. It is very easy, however, to sit and look at a match, and make condemnatory remarks, but not quite so easy always to “do the thing clean.” Some very difficult fielding is at times quite unappreciated, especially if it does not happen to partake of the sensational class.

17. Or, if in striking, or at any other time while the ball shall be in play, both his feet shall be over the popping crease, and his wicket put down, except his bat be grounded within it.

Many have been the disputes respecting the fairness of a bowler in putting down a wicket while pretending to deliver the ball. At first glance the act appears to be childish, and utterly unworthy the noble character of cricket; but if a batsman makes a start before the ball is really delivered, he takes an undue advantage, and must bear the consequences. The ground between the popping crease and wicket belongs to the batsman, and the instant he leaves it he exposes himself to the adversary. The bat must be grounded within the limits of the popping crease—that is, beyond, or over the white line, not upon it, as the crease itself is a part of the

measured ground between wickets. In the event of a batsman being put out, it has been asked how the event is to be recorded in the score-sheet. In all cases where the wicket is put down while the batsman is not in the act of striking, it should be "run out;" but while in the act of striking, it should be "stumpt."

18. Or, if in striking at the ball, he hit down his wicket.

"Hit wicket" was punishable a century ago, and has stood in the list of capital offences ever since. A singular case transpired in the return match between Kent and Sussex, in the year 1866. Wells, a Sussex batsman of very diminutive physical proportions, happened to hit his wicket while preparing to meet the bowler, but before the ball was delivered. The umpire gave the man out, but his decision was warmly disputed. How, it was asked, could a batsman be "striking at the ball" which was undelivered?

If a batsman, in making a run, should happen to hit his wicket either with his bat or any part of his person, he would not be out, unless it be done with

the intention of leaving his opponents a broken wicket to deal with. This is a point for either of the umpires to decide.

19. Or, if under pretence of running, or otherwise, either of the strikers prevents a ball from being caught, the striker of the ball is out.

“Prevents,” in this instance, is meant to imply a design on the part of the batsman to thwart a fielder in the execution of his duty. The matter is one of reference entirely. But who, it may be asked, can penetrate the labyrinthine mazes of purpose? An umpire may be a very acute cricketer, but nevertheless sadly up in his metaphysics. Yet he settles the affair off-hand, and there is no appeal from his decree. It may be well here to observe that in running between wickets each batsman should keep his own side.

20. Or, if the ball be struck and he wilfully strike it again.

“Wilfully” is an adverb in legal formularies of very ugly aspect. In the matter of cricket, a batsman is fully justified in wilfully striking the

ball a second time if it be in defence of his wicket. The object of the law in question is to prevent a striker from thwarting the field by a dangerous and improper interference with the ball when hit away from his wicket. He cannot score from a second hit. A case is recorded, in the year 1832, of a batsman who, in effecting a run, prevented the ball from reaching the wicket-keeper's hands by the interposition of his bat, and the man was given out, and very properly so.

21. Or, if in running the wicket be struck down by a throw, or by the hand or arm (with ball in hand) before his bat (in hand) or some part of his person be grounded over the popping crease. But if both bails be off, a stump must be struck out of the ground.

“Ball in hand” means the hand which knocks down the wicket, or, in other words, the ball must not be in hand undetached from that which puts the wicket down. A case occurred recently of a wicket-keeper prostrating the wicket with one hand and holding up the ball with the other. On appeal to the great authority for the time being, a verdict

of “not out” was pronounced. This was repudiated by some, and accepted as a sound decision by others. But the umpire was wrong. Had the wrist of the hand which held the ball touched any portion of that which put down the wicket, it would have been a good decision, as contact is necessary. Here it may be right to remark that, although the method of scoring at the present day is a vast improvement upon that of half a century ago, it is still incomplete in some important details,—in the case, for instance, of a long-field, who probably may be played almost entirely for his great efficiency in that position. He may “throw out” two or three during a match, and yet no mention of such feats are recorded on the score sheets. Our countrymen at the antipodes estimate a good long-field at a high rate, and take care that successful throwing is properly recorded, which it is not when merely “run out” is placed against a name.

22. Or, if any part of the striker’s dress knock down the wicket.

That is to say, any part of the dress while the

batsman is in the act of striking. Here the opportunity is convenient for observing that if a wicket be knocked down by a ball struck from the opposite batsman, the man would not be out, even if he happened to be off his ground. The ball must be fielded. It has been held, however, that, if the ball merely touches the hand, or even other parts of the body of the fielder, and is in consequence directed into the wicket, the party, if he be out of his ground, loses his wicket. The only part of the striker's dress that is liable to imperil his wicket is his hat, and this he usually guards against by testing its adherence to its proper place before he ventures to strike, for the wind is often a capricious enemy.

If any part of the striker's dress impede the ball so as to retain it temporarily, the batsman may be caught from it. A few years since a batsman played a ball into the folds of his pads, where it remained until removed by the wicket-keeper. "How's that, umpire?" "Out! caught wicket-keeper." A somewhat similar circumstance of older date is recorded. A few runs were wanted to win, and a dependable batsman was sent in : he played

the first ball into his breeches pocket and started to run, and would have continued his course up to the winning figure had not an antagonist rolled him over and abstracted the ball. Another case is mentioned in which the ball ran up the handle of the bat and secreted itself in the batsman's jacket-pocket. The batsman ran round the field in order to work it out without touching it, and eventually succeeded—though pursued by a strong muster of the field—and got back to his wicket before the ball could be thrown in. Another case, still more singular, is stated to have occurred with the celebrated Mr. Ward, who played the ball into the inclosure of his pantaloons, and as extraction by the field was out of the question, the matter was compromised.

23. Or, if the striker touch or take up the ball while in play, unless at the request of the opposite party.

To an ordinary observer No. 23 might be regarded as an encumbrance to the statute book, so rarely is it brought under notice. A little inspection opens up at least one very important proposi-

tion, viz., that the bat and the ball cannot be confounded in their respective times and usages without destroying one of the primary and essential principles of cricket. No batsman has any right whatever to handle the ball while a match is in progress, and no fielder ought to make use of the bat under any circumstances until his legitimate turn arrives so to do. The last law in the statute book—in language not to be mistaken—forbids the use of the bat by a fielder, although it does not punish him after the same fashion as it does a batsman whose fingers wittingly or otherwise handle the ball.

It is somewhat strange that no mention is made in any law respecting the number of persons composing the “opposite party.” Nyren says, in his “Cricketers’ Guide,” the number of players in a complete game should comprise twenty-two men, eleven on each side, and that the arrangement is so much the result both of judgment and experience, that the practitioner will find it difficult to spare one of them in a match. As yet no one has hazarded an opinion respecting this mystic number; there was doubtlessly a reason for it. On the

construction of double-wicket a great deal of thought must have been expended before thought assumed the shape of law—whether written or understood. The early promoters might have been “fast” in one cricketing sense, but they were by no means slow in another.

24. Or, if with any part of his person he stop the ball, which in the opinion of the umpire at the bowler's wicket, shall have been pitched in a straight line from it to the striker's wicket and would have hit it.

Notwithstanding the apparent plainness of this rule, it is the most perplexing and disagreeable of the whole code. Many ingenious theories have been planned for simplifying it, but at present without success. Every cricketer must admit that with the present style of bowling the law is a nullity. A ball to get a wicket will rarely be pitched as required by the law, and when it does so it will rather work to the off than to the wicket, and in some instances it will even break back; and thus it is almost impossible for the umpire, standing where he does, to say that

a ball wide-pitched will have the right bias to hit the wicket. It has been stated repeatedly by those who have examined the matter critically, that a round-arm bowler, in delivering a ball outside the wicket, cannot pitch it within the line from wicket to wicket so that it would hit the stumps. Nor was it ever contemplated that a batsman should be taught to calculate the peculiar spin that an expert (slow) might put on the ball, or a rough ground give to a wide-pitched one, and then if he failed to strike it, and it hit his leg, that he should be given out. The question also of the line from wicket to wicket, or from hand to wicket, ought to be determined upon at once. Law 10 has ceased to distract the attention of the legislator and annoy the player; why should not 24 be grappled with, and its tormenting elements be rooted out?

25. If the players have crossed each other, he that runs for the wicket which is put down is out.

There are ten ways in which a batsman may be got out, and this is one of them.

26. A ball being caught, no run shall be reckoned.

In other words, the batsman who is caught out in the act of attempting a run cannot score, even if he completed a run before being caught. A ball caught in its descent from the roof of a house or other building, from a rebound against a wall, or falling from a tree, will not make the striker out. All such balls are regarded as “let” or hindered balls, impeded in the course which they otherwise would have taken.

27. A striker being run out, that run which he and his partner were attempting shall not be reckoned.

This wholesome regulation was suggested in consequence of a practice which at one time prevailed of daring a run upon the feeblest pretence when the match was nearing its close, and when perhaps but two or three runs were wanting, and as many persons were provided to get them. It was “nip, touch, and away.” Such play was regarded as childish and contemptible; hence the law in question.

While running is in progress the scorer's closest attention is needed. The scorers ought to have an assistant to wait on the telegraph. This instrument is usually placed in proximity with the scoring box or tent, so that a constant communication is kept up, and the state of the game declared at short intervals. The telegraph is generally about ten feet in height, and the upper portion, or face, is provided with grooves into which iron plates of about a foot square are inserted. On each of these is painted a figure. In the top groove the total amount of runs by the party at the wicket is placed. In the middle groove, the number of wickets down, and in the lower, the number of runs obtained by the last man out. When it is considered that on I Zingari and other visits to the Viceregal play-grounds at Dublin, the late highly-accomplished and most estimable nobleman, the Earl of Carlisle, would officiate as scorer, the office becomes dignified, and every one who henceforth holds it ought to feel himself a man of importance, at least for the time being.

28. If a lost ball be called, the striker shall be allowed six runs; but if more than six shall

have been run before lost ball shall have been called, then the striker shall have all which have been run.

Many curious and almost incredible circumstances connected herewith might be enumerated. Originally the law was intended to apply to balls struck at so great a distance as to elude the fielder's observation. When such was the case he would call out "lost ball," in order to stop the running, which otherwise might be continued to an indefinite length. A case is recorded of a ball being caught by a mastiff dog before a single run was completed. The fielder finding it was vain to coax this ugly customer out of the prize he possessed, tried harsher means, but to no purpose. He then claimed his lost-ball privilege, and soon after the dog was whistled off. In another place, a ball was struck with such force into the crevice of a tree that the fielder applied all the resources at his command to extract it, but in vain. The batsmen were making the most of this singular event until the cry of lost ball stopt further running. A third instance—a ball rolled into a pond and floated to within two yards of the bank. The fielder had

no relish for a bath, and no means were at hand to enable him to pull the ball ashore. Failing to call lost ball, the batsmen continued running, and succeeded in effecting seven runs, the last of which won the match. One more singular case is worth quoting. A match was played upon a portion of a common set apart for cricketing purposes, and which was kept in beautiful order. A somewhat unusually hard hitter sent the ball far beyond the ordinary bounds, and it lodged in a furze bush thoroughly armed at all points against aggressive legs and fingers (*Nemo impune, &c.*) The fielder was confused, while the batsmen ran like antelopes, as but few runs were wanting by them. The ball was as visible in the bush as the sun was above it, yet it could not be extracted before the match was won by calling lost ball. Query, can that be really a lost ball which can be touched and seen, and yet not be handled by ordinary means?

29. After the ball shall have been finally settled in the wicket-keeper's or bowler's hand, or shall have passed through the hands of the wicket-keeper for the bowler to resume bowling, it shall be considered dead; but when the bowler is

about to deliver the ball, if the striker at his wicket go outside the popping crease before such actual delivery, the said bowler may put him out, unless (with reference to the 21st law) his bat in hand, or some part of his person be within the popping crease.

The *ruse* frequently adopted by very acute wicket-keepers of holding the ball in order to catch the less experienced hitter off his guard, has long been denounced as a contemptible experiment. “Finally settled” is when the wicket-keeper has taken the ball, and the batsman is within the limits of the popping crease. It is the duty of the wicket-keeper to return the ball immediately. If, however, it be the last ball of the over, it is dead without being returned. As regards the bowler, it is quite fair for him to turn round and put down a wicket if the batsman has left it to “follow up” for a supposed run. Herein the batsman offends the law, and deserves the punishment awarded to such transgressors.—See Law 17.

30. The striker shall not retire from his wicket and return to it to complete his innings after another

has been in, without the consent of the opposite party.

No one will question the propriety of such a law as this; the injured and retiring party, however, ought not to come in again until a wicket has fallen.

31. No substitute shall in any case be allowed to stand out or run between wickets for another person without the consent of the opposite party; and in case any person shall be allowed to run for another, the striker shall be out if either he or his substitute be off the ground in manner mentioned in Laws 17 and 21, while the ball is play.

A "sub." very often appears upon the scene, but his chief must take the consequences both of his incompetence and rashness, should either manifest itself. Sometimes strange incidents occur, and many perplexities to the country mind. A short time since a match took place in Berkshire, in which, for the sake of illustration, A. and B. were batsmen. B. required a sub. B. struck a ball, from which A. and C. effected a run. B., seeing the certainty of A. and C. getting home in time,

walked leisurely to the wicket where his deputy runner was. The ball was thrown in, and the wicket-keeper prostrated the stumps at which A. was. The umpire being appealed to, replied "out." C. asked *who* was out? The umpire answered A., but presently changed his mind, and said B. Now it is quite clear that the judge was wrong in each decree.

At Harpenden a batsman had a deputy, and in hitting a leg-ball struck him on the back. The ball was caught by the wicket-keeper, and the batsman was given out.

A case recently occurred at Gravesend in which the principal, forgetting he had a substitute, made a run, but it did not count. Another case of forgetfulness is recorded, in which the principal ran instead of his sub., and had his wicket put down. What was the verdict? Out, according to Law 17. Another noteworthy case occurred at Brighton a year ago, in a match between the Royal Artillery and the Gentlemen of Sussex. The "sub." ran, his principal followed up (no doubt unthinkingly). An effort was made to put down the opposite wicket, but failed; the ball was

then thrown to the other end, and, as neither principal nor deputy were within bounds, the principal was given out, apparently much astonished, not dreaming of the activity of the field.

32. In all cases where a substitute shall be allowed, the consent of the opposite party shall also be obtained as to the person to act as substitute, and the place in the field which he shall take.

A very few years ago the situations of the substitute were negatively set forth; thus, he was not to bowl, keep wicket, stand at point, cover point, or stop behind in any case.

33. If any fieldsman stop the ball with his hat, the ball shall be considered dead, and the opposite party shall add five runs to their score; if any be run, they shall have five in all.

Very rarely does a violation here occur—so rarely, in fact, that scarce one person in ten who witnesses a match is aware of such a rule being in existence. About three years since the wicket-keeper in a county match took off his pads, and threw them down in the locality of short-leg.

Presently a ball was impeded by them, and the party who was in appealed to the umpire, who awarded the five runs penalty for the hat obstruction. A few years since the Bishop of an English diocese, after the ceremony of a confirmation, joined a party at a cricket match. His lordship said, "I'll make the best long-stop you ever saw, for I've got an apron." He certainly did good service thereby. Query, how many runs ought to have been forfeited?

34. The ball having been hit, the striker may guard his wicket with his bat or with any part of his body except his hands, that the 23rd Law may not be disobeyed.

Originally the decree ran thus:—"If a striker nips a ball up just before him, he may fall before his wicket, or pop down his bat before she comes to it, to save it.

35. The wicket-keeper shall not take the ball for the purpose of stumping, unless it has passed the wicket; he shall not move till the ball be out of the bowler's hand: he shall not by any noise incommode the striker; and if any part of his per-

son be over or before the wicket, although the ball hit it, the striker shall not be out.

In the important discharge of their duties the umpires have to look keenly after the contingencies to which the above rule refers. The main object is to prevent an over-dexterous custodian of the wicket from outstepping the prescribed boundary assigned for his operations. An inexperienced umpire is likely to be bamboozled by sharp practitioners, whose game is old and unsuccessful among undaunted professionals. The law itself is plain enough, and only requires vigilance and determination on the part of its administrators. Sometimes the bowling is of such a character that a wicket-keeper is dispensed with; it not unfrequently happens that alarm is created at the furious pace at which the ball is made to travel, and the wicket-keeper leaves so considerable a distance between himself and the batsman that stumping is a matter of no trifling difficulty. Should the wicket be struck down by the ball thrown from the wicket-keeper's hand, the batsman would be recorded as run out, not stumped.

36. The umpires are sole judges of fair or unfair play, and all disputes shall be determined by them, each at his own wicket; but in case of a catch which the umpire at the wicket bowled from cannot see sufficiently to decide upon, he may apply to the other umpire, whose opinion shall be conclusive.

A bit of bungling on the part of the umpires in an important match recently occurred at Cambridge, which deserves mention as a warning to sleepy or inefficient persons who may aspire to the onerous post. A ball was struck, and a doubtful catch resulted therefrom—doubtful on account of its difficulty, and it became the subject of appeal. The first umpire said “he didn’t see it,” and the second declared “he wasn’t looking.” The batsman of course retained his post, and made a score sufficiently long to win the match by, although the last wicket. Now it may be asked who is to estimate the wrong-doing in such a case as this, and who can tell how much good cricket has been spoiled through similar inefficients? If there is an object of charity, such object never ought to be paraded in the form of an umpire, on whom

important destinies depend, and concerning which a large amount of time and labour has been expended in order to obtain a wreath worth the striving for.

With respect to "fair and unfair play," these may occur in a variety of ways, for which the laws have made no adequate provision. It is next to impossible to legislate for every incident that may accompany a match, however well regulated. To the umpire's judgment the appeal is made, and whether his decree be sound or otherwise, the appellants must bow submission thereto.

A case occurred last year in which H. H. Stephenson was given out for "obstructing the ball." The umpire maintained that the ball was kicked in order to baulk the fieldsman. H. H. declared otherwise, but yielded to the decision of the umpire.

In a public-school match a batsman labouring under fearful misgivings respecting his defensive qualifications when tested by a slow but very straight bowler, kept his bat immovable in the blocking hole. To this the wicket-keeper demurred, and the batsman shouted to the umpire,

“Am I out if I don’t move my bat?” to which he received the instantaneous reply, “You are if you do.”

37. The umpires in all matches shall pitch fair wickets, and the parties shall toss up for the choice of innings. The umpires shall change wickets after each party has had one innings.

“Fair wickets” are considered to be such when all the inequalities of the ground about the usual pitch of the ball are overcome in the best available manner. Care with respect to a level surface ought to be taken, as few bowlers like an uphill wicket. When the spot is determined upon, a stump is erected which afterwards forms the centre of the wicket. A wooden frame of dimensions requisite to compass the bowling and popping creases is then laid down, and an application of lime or chalk liquid is used to mark the boundaries. A chain or tape serves to measure the distance between wickets. No one would suppose that a surveyor, however humble, could mistake such a task, and yet about two years ago part of an innings had been played through in a county

match, when a bowler had the temerity to challenge the correctness of the umpires, and in stepping the distance found it a yard short.

38. They shall allow two minutes for each striker to come in, and ten minutes between each innings. When the umpires shall call "Play," the party refusing to play shall lose the match.

This very proper disposition of time is not enforced by umpires of the present day with the strictness it deserves, unless perhaps when a game is running close, and they are reminded of their duty by the vociferations of interested lookers on. How many matches might be rescued from the limbo of the "drawn" if a prompt adherence to the rule in question were enforced! A case occurred three years since when two clubs of great self-importance played a match in the neighbourhood of the Regent's Park. One innings occupying a long time was completed, and seven wickets of the other side were down for an unsatisfactory score. When the next man on the list was called he treated the umpire with silent contempt; the call was repeated, still without effect. The umpire

forthwith drew the stumps, and declared the match to be in favour of the party who went in first. The gentleman who refused to comply with the call felt his own dignity as well as that of his confrères very much compromised, but the only remedy they received at the hands of the press and the public was "Serve them right." The waste of time at the present day is really monstrous, and much of the cricket indulged in by clubs who have to learn the value of the stuff of which life is made, is of so little account as not to be worthy of the name.

39. They are not to order a striker out unless appealed to by the adversaries.

They—meaning the umpires—would be very much "out of order" if they did. The importance of the umpire's office may be estimated to some extent from the frequency of its mention in the laws of the game—viz., twenty times. Lord Bacon calls him an arbitrator, and Shakspeare defines an umpire, "one who as a common friend decides disputes," but as neither the chief Chancellor of his time, nor "the poet of all time," knew anything about cricket, their definitions are

not exactly appropriate. Minshew derives the word from *un père*—*i. e.* a prudent man. Let every umpire ponder the last definition well.

40. But if one of the bowler's feet be not on the ground behind the bowling crease and within the return crease when he shall deliver the ball, the umpire at his wicket, unasked, must call "No ball."

The word "crease" occurs no less than fifteen times in the laws of cricket, and yet the word is nowhere so defined as to render its meaning strictly clear. In referring, however, to the original laws, this phrase will be found "creases shall be cut," meaning thereby that an incision shall be made into the turf to the extent named. Of late years great complaints have been made respecting the practice of cutting the turf, seeing that it weakens and sometimes destroys the fibre thereof. The "crease" has, in consequence, given way to a white chalk line of about an inch in breadth; and as it seems to answer all necessary purposes satisfactorily, there is not much likelihood of returning to the practice of deep cuttings and extensive

scarifications enforced by the primitive legislators of cricket. Of course the “no ball” would not constitute any portion of the over, any more than a wide, although a bye would. Here it may be well to remark that a bye, notwithstanding it counts towards the score, has no effect as regards a maiden over. Maidens are understood to be such as produce no runs from the bat. The first mention of No ball on the score-sheet occurs in the year 1830 in a match between Marylebone and Middlesex at Lord’s.

41. If either of the strikers run a short run, the umpire must call “One short.”

It is scarcely necessary to say here that the “short run” is determined by the popping crease, over which the bat-in-hand must be put down if the foot of the batsman does not arrive there.

42. No umpire shall be allowed to bet.

This highly beneficial rule ought also to apply to a scorer; for although the latter has a check-mate at his elbow, it is not difficult for an “expert” to hoodwink one less shrewd than himself. More-

over, the mistake of a scorer would not be so apparent as that of an interested umpire, who has all eyes upon him, while a single run more or less, wrongly scored, would do as much injustice to the parties concerned in the match as the most dishonest award of an umpire. There was a time when an umpire would be chosen for his known predilection to “win, tie, or wrangle”—ay, and who could

Prove his doctrine orthodox
By oft-repeated blows and knocks.

Those days are among the unreviving past ; it is nevertheless a wholesome practice to put temptation out of the way, and in lieu thereof to patronize the fearless and the just in the discharge of their proper duty.

43. No umpire is to be changed during the match, unless with the consent of both parties, except in a case of a violation of the 42nd Law ; then either party may dismiss the transgressor.

The only causes likely to necessitate a change are sudden or severe illness, or positive incapacity. Against the former there is no effectual guard,

although there is for the latter. How often has “a good-natured fellow” been pressed to stand, probably with a view to narrow the expenses of even a respectable club! To the outside world the good-fellow resembles the fly in amber, about which nobody cares, while everybody wonders how he got there. When a man is found to be notoriously wanting in the elementary principles of the game, his removal from the post into which he has been thrust is a relief to both parties—ay, and to himself especially. Hence in such case there is little difficulty in carrying out the rule. A betting umpire is now-a-days rare as a griffin. It ought here to be remarked that a habit has sprung up in some quarters of leaving the post of umpire merely to keep other appointments, thereby treating the law and the match with anything but due respect. An instance illustrative of this is recorded, when three umpires officiated for one party. No. 1 left the ground within two hours of the close of a three-day match; No. 2 followed an hour later; and No. 3 was left to settle a disputed point which only No. 1 could fairly and properly do, and the game was brought to a close amidst much expressed

dissatisfaction. Surely persons who affect so rigid an enforcement of one law ought not to ignore its next-door neighbour.

44. After the delivery of four balls, the umpire must call "Over," but not until the ball shall be finally settled in the wicket-keeper's or bowler's hand; the ball shall then be considered dead; nevertheless, if an idea be entertained that either of the strikers is out, a question may be put previously to, but not after, the delivery of the next ball.

Sometimes in a one-day match, five or even six balls constitute the over. This private arrangement does not invalidate the general law in its after details. Sometimes an umpire is at fault in calling the over agreed upon, but the batsman must take the consequences thereof. A bowler or wicket-keeper is not to be deprived of a wicket (supposing he has got one) from a surplus ball, any more than a batsman is of the runs (if any acquired) from a similar defect in the umpire's reckoning. The words "must" and "shall" are sufficiently stringent and peremptory to keep the machinery in good going order; and yet in a match on the Middlesex

ground about a year since, the bowler (Hearne) was preparing to deliver the last ball of an over, when a pigeon happened to fly at a considerable elevation across the wickets. The bowler was so strongly tempted that he threw at the bird instead of bowling at the wicket, and proved so good a marksman that he brought the pigeon to earth, "dead as a door-nail."

45. The umpire must take especial care to call "No ball" instantly upon delivery. "Wide ball," as soon as it shall pass the striker.

If all umpires would wait just long enough to ascertain whether the ball had passed the striker before calling "Wide," many unpleasantnesses might be spared. The "no ball" is quite another affair, and demands speedy decision. A case is reported where an umpire called wide, which in reality was a no ball. Instantly upon delivery the ball was easily compassed and hit before the crease, and the man was caught from it. "How's that?" from half-a-dozen voices at once. "Out," said the confused umpire. A loud protest was entered

against the decision, and the match broke off in disorder. In addition to the calls suggested by the rule, the umpire has to take notice of byes. It is not a little remarkable that, with all the seeming regard for completeness in the management of the game, the term "bye" is not even hinted at, although it forms so striking a characteristic, and is moreover regarded as one of the best exponents of the fielding. In its strict sense it means a run obtained from defective fielding of a ball not struck, and is generally chargeable to the long-stop. When byes were first permitted the bowling was underhand, but when round-arm became "all the go," and pace was regarded as the grand object to be achieved, the bowling became often so dangerous that the legs of the batsmen needed protection, and, as necessity is the parent of invention, pads of various designs were brought into notice. Some of these were of such huge proportions that a ball which in all probability would have been secured either by wicket-keeper or long-stop glanced off in the direction of square-leg, or at least completely out of a straight course, and thus the fielder was charged with a mistake

quite beyond his power of overruling. Leg byes were then suggested.—See Law 13.

46. The players who go in second shall follow their innings, if they have obtained eighty runs less than their antagonists, except in all matches limited to only one day's play, when the number shall be limited to sixty instead of eighty.

Many objections have been taken to this rule on the ground of unfairness. The great object in view is a saving of time, and to this minor matters must bow. It is a generally adopted rule in one-day matches to decide by the first innings, if the match is not played out.—(See note at foot of Law 47.)

47. When one of the strikers shall have been put out, the use of the bat shall not be allowed to any person until the next striker shall come in.

No law is treated with less respect than this, and yet on its proper observance depends one of the fundamental principles of the game. This is somewhat marvellous. The frequent practice of snatching the bat from the hand of a "not out"

during the short interval of two minutes, is, to say the least of it, puerile and ridiculous. Moreover, the continuity of the game is impaired. How much better would be the fielding of amateur cricketers if they would gratify their fidgety propensities by a little practice with the ball during the interim, and thereby keep their fingers in form for a catch whenever it occurs, rather than subject themselves to the ridicule which follows a mistake. If the law is good and worthy of the rest, by all means let it be respected as well by law-makers as others, remembering—

Example is a living law, whose sway
Men more than all the written laws obey.

Antony and Cleopatra.

One duty imposed on the umpire at Marylebone in the “match regulations,” is to see that all matches played at Lord’s shall be in conformity with the laws of the Marylebone Club. This functionary is, however, at times in such a fix as to let “I dare not wait upon I would.” In such case every true lover of cricket, and well-wisher for its furtherance, may well exclaim, “Heaven help him!”

NOTE.—The Committee of the Marylebone Club think it desirable that previously to the commencement of a match, one of each side should be declared the manager of it; and that the new laws with respect to substitutes may be carried out in a spirit of fairness and mutual concession. It is their wish that such substitutes be allowed in all reasonable cases, and that the umpire should inquire if it is done with the consent of the manager of the opposite side.

Complaints having been made that it is the practice of some players when at the wicket to make holes in the ground for a footing, the Committee are of opinion that the umpires should be empowered to prevent it.

The rule in practice at Lord's, in the case of one-day matches, is—"That a match, in the absence of express stipulation to the contrary, must be played out, or given up before one side can claim the victory, agreeably to law and with respect to bets. It must, therefore, be decided between the two sides

whether they intend to stand by the first innings or not, before the commencement of the game. If they don't decide, and the match is not played out, it is of course drawn."

LAWS AFFECTING SINGLE WICKET.

THESE are so plain that "he who runs may read" and understand them.

I. When there shall be less than five players on a side, bounds shall be placed twenty-two yards each in a line from the off and leg-stump.

II. The ball must be hit before the bounds to entitle the striker to run, which run cannot be obtained unless he touch the bowling stump or crease in a line with his bat, or some part of his person, or go beyond them, returning to the popping crease as at double wicket, according to the 21st Law.

III. When the striker shall hit the ball, one of his feet must be on the ground and behind the popping crease, otherwise the umpire shall call "No hit."

IV. When there shall be less than five players on a side, neither byes nor over-throws shall be allowed, nor shall the striker be caught out behind the wicket, nor stumped out.

V. The fieldsman must return the ball so that it shall cross the play between the wicket and the bowling stump, or between the bowling stump and the bounds; the striker may run till the ball be so returned.

VI. After the striker shall have made one run, if he start again he must touch the bowling stump and turn before the ball cross the play, to entitle him to another.

VII. The striker shall be entitled to three runs for lost ball, and the same number for ball stopped with hat, with reference to the 28th and 33rd Laws of double wicket.

VIII. When there shall be more than four players on a side there shall be no bounds. All hits, byes, and over-throws shall then be allowed.

IX. The bowler is subject to the same laws as at double wicket.

X. No more than one minute shall be allowed between each ball.

BETS.

I. No bet upon any match is payable unless it be played out or given up.

II. If the runs of one player be betted against those of another, the bet depends on the first innings, unless otherwise specified.

III. If the bet be made on both innings, and one party beat the other in one innings, the runs of the first shall determine it.

IV. If the other party go in a second time, then the bet must be determined by the number on the score.

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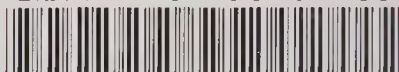
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